THE TIMES 35P

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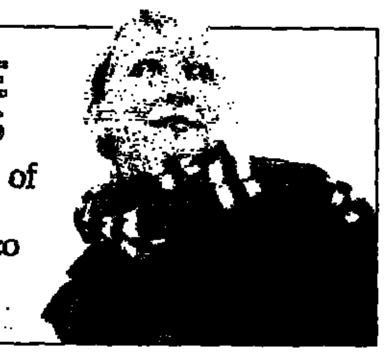

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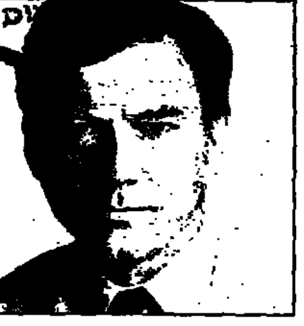

TOMORROW

COACHING FOR LIFE

America's newest growth industry

weekend

Commons tirade over sleaze 'stunt'

Major lets rip at Blair and Ashdown

By Philip Webster and Jill Sherman

JOHN MAJOR unleashed a venomous assault on Tony Blair and Paddy Ashdown yesterday that reflected his belief that they had hijacked the final days of Parliament with a stage-managed row over sleaze.

Conservative backbenchers bayed with delight as Mr Major delivered a personal tirade against Mr Blair, accusing him of trading on double standards from the moment he was elected leader, selling policies to the unions, flying on Concorde and failing to declare it, and calling for openness while refusing to publish the secret funds of his private office.

He then turned on the Liberal Democrat leader, telling him that he was ending the Parliament as pious and pompous as he had been throughout it, and that the attempt led by himself and Mr Blair to force the publication of the Downey report on cash-for-questions had been a stunt.

Labour and Liberal Democrats, however, intensified their charges that the Commons was rising today to avoid the Downey report being delivered to MPs next week.

The explosive question-time exchanges came after the interim report on the affair left ten Tories under a cloud of suspicion while clearing 15 MPs — 11 Conservative, three Labour and one Liberal Democrat — of improperly receiving money through their constituency parties from the lobbyist Ian Greer.

But the clash between Mr Major and Mr Blair came over Mr Blair's repeated demands that the Commons should sit on so that the full Downey report could be published. As Mr Major refused to change his plans, Mr Blair declared that his handling of the affair left a stain on the character of his Government. Mr Major retorted that Mr Blair and his front bench were guilty of having "smeared and smeared and smeared again".

The Prime Minister was reported by close ministerial friends to be genuinely furious that the sleaze issue had come back to distract attention from good employment figures.

But the way he allowed his pent-up emotions virtually to run out of control in the Commons delighted his backbenchers, and he was given a back-slapping reception in the Commons tea-room.

The mood of Labour MPs as they prepared to leave for the election was perhaps more justifiably upbeat after another poll gave their party a 27-point lead over the Conservatives. They described Mr Major's performance as a "rant" that made him look more like an Opposition leader than a Prime Minister.

To press home their charges that Mr Major had deliberately suspended Parliament early to avoid the Downey publication, the opposition parties tabled a one-clause Bill which would give the Standards and Privileges Committee power to sit until the dissolution on April 8. It will make no progress.

The Cabinet meanwhile put the final touches to the Tories' manifesto for a fifth term. It is reported to be half the length of the 1992 document, although it was slightly enlarged yesterday to include the provisions lost from the education and crime Bills this week.

Ministers will highlight the specific policies lost as an example of the significant differences between the Tory and Labour party. The new additions include proposals for expanding selection and a commitment that grant-maintained schools will be able to set up nurseries, sixth forms and boarding facilities.

The programme will also restore mandatory minimum sentences for repeat burglars and drug dealers.

Seniore party sources said the three main themes of the manifesto would be economic stability, social stability and constitutional stability

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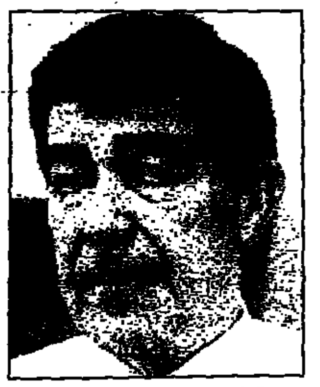
Ten MPs who have to wait

By Arthur Leathley
Political Correspondent
and Andrew Pierce



Sir Gordon: regrets delay

TEN Tory MPs have investigations hanging over them as the Commons rises today for the general election.

A Commons investigation into accusations against 25 MPs failed yesterday to decide on the ten Conservatives, provoking claims that the inquiry was taking too long.

Neil Hamilton, the former Trade Minister, is among the Tory MPs whose cases will not be concluded until at least May, when the new Parliament begins. A huge report into allegations against him will be completed next week, but will not be published until the new House sits.

Mr Hamilton, who is accused of failing to divulge cash payments from Mohamed Al Fayed, chairman of Harrods, complained that the report into the allegations had not been finished. Mr Hamilton, MP for Tatton, said: "I need to be able to clear my name of these false allegations and my constituents need to know that their MP is not a crook."

Among the more serious allegations that have been left pending are those involving Tim Smith, a former Northern Ireland minister, Sir Andrew Bowden, Michael Brown and Sir Michael Grylls.

Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Standards Commissioner, published a short interim report yesterday, saying that it was "clearly a matter for regret" that some of his investigations had not been finished. He insisted that failure to conclude reports into some of the allegations did not imply guilt, but that they had been less straightforward than the other 15.

The report cleared 15 MPs of wrongdoing, including Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, after they were accused of failing to declare payments made into their election campaign funds. Most of the MPs are fighting the election campaign, but Sir Michael Grylls is not standing.

Although senior Opposition figures voiced anger at the delays, some of the MPs involved were less irritated by them. Gerald Malone, the Health Minister, facing claims that his constituency association received £1,000 from Ian Greer, the lobbyist, told friends that the delay was "an annoying distraction" that would not affect his campaign.

PAUL RICHARDS/EPA

President Clinton after being lowered from Air Force One on to a Finnair catering lorry at Helsinki airport yesterday when he arrived for a summit with President Yeltsin. Mr Clinton injured his knee recently in an accident at the golfer Greg Norman's home in Florida. Pages 11, 21

Councils free to stop providing home help

By Ian Murray
Community Correspondent

COUNCILS can stop providing disabled people with home help if their budgets are used up, the House of Lords ruled yesterday.

The Law Lords overturned a Court of Appeal decision that once care had been agreed, it had to be provided however short of money a council became. They backed by a majority of three to two an appeal by Gloucestershire County Council and Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary.

Lord Nicholls of Birkenhead said that a person's need for help "cannot sensibly be assessed without having some regard to the cost. A person's need for a particular type or level of service cannot be decided in a vacuum from which all considerations of cost have been expelled."

In a dissenting judgment, Lord Lloyd of Beswick blamed Gloucester's difficulties on shortage of money from the Government. "The council has escaped from an impossible position in which they and other local authorities have been placed," he said. "Even if the council wished to raise the money to meet the need, it would be unable to do so by reason of Government-imposed rate-capping."

The 1970 Act to provide care for the chronically sick and disabled was a noble aspiration, he said, but the money had to be found to pay for it. "Having willed the end, Parliament must be asked to provide the means."

The ruling affects all local authorities in England and Wales and people who rely on them for services, including cleaning, shopping and the provision of meals and housekeepers.

The case began in 1994 after Gloucestershire withdrew services from 1,500 residents to save money after the Government required it to cut £2.5 million from its annual budget. An appeal, backed by the Public Law Project and the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation, was brought on behalf of Michael Barry, an 81-year-old stroke victim. Mr Barry had lost his house cleaning and laundry provision because of a shortage of funds, although he kept twice-weekly home visits and meals-on-wheels.

The High Court ruled that it was impractical to expect councils not to make cuts if their budgets were reduced, but that decision was overturned by the Court of Appeal last June.

In yesterday's judgment, Lord Clyde said availability of resources could be a determining factor. "If my resources are limited, I have to need a thing very much before I am satisfied that it is necessary to purchase it," he said.

But Derek Vizer of Voice of the Disabled said: "This decision is not just tragic: for some it will be fatal. Unfortunately the Law Lords don't have to pick these people up off the floor or they would realise what a terrible thing they have done. I am going to take this case on to the Court of Human Rights. The people who are being hurt by this are people who fought for England and now they are old, the country tells them they are too expensive to look after. It was supposed to be a service from the cradle to the grave. The grave is nearer than it was before this judgment."

Age Concern and the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation both described the ruling as a devastating blow for thousands of people.

Shares suffer year's biggest one-day fall

By Michael Clark, Stock Market Correspondent

LONDON shares suffered their biggest one-day fall this year, with the FT-SE 100 index of leading stocks closing 74.1 points lower at 4,258.1.

The index stands 186 points down from its all-time closing high on March 11, with all but 20 points of that slump occurring this week after John Major confirmed that the election would be on May 1.

The latest fall was prompted by a warning from Alan Greenspan, chairman of the US Federal Reserve, that American rates would have to rise to pre-empt a resurgence in inflationary pressures.

The reaction of London dealers illustrates the anxiety of financial markets as the prolonged election campaign unfolds. Brokers are standing by for a correction of markets that have risen strongly over the past two years.

Yesterday's sell-off happened despite news that UK retail price inflation fell in February. Headline inflation edged lower to 2.7 per cent, from 2.8 per cent in January, while underlying inflation fell from 3.1 per cent to 2.9 per cent.

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average fell 50 points before recouping some losses to stand around 35 points lower at midday.

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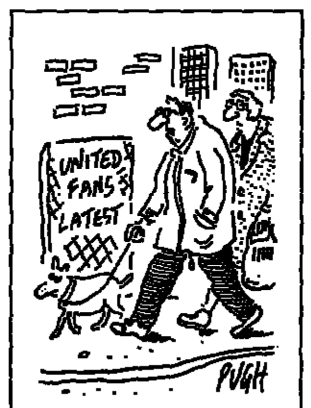

"I thought you only had a shoot-out if there was a draw"

Oporto shooting

The Foreign Office demanded a report from Portuguese police, who fired rubber bullets at Manchester United fans after their 0-0 draw with FC Porto..........................Page 5

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Big spenders consign the cardigan to history

By Alan Hamilton

Doonican: cardigan king

AS A men's fashion statement, the woolly cardigan with buttons down the front is as dead as the kipper tie. Now, in a final *coup de grace*, it has been thrown out as one of Britain's key economic indicators.

For years, cardigans — perhaps best modelled by the singer Val Doonican who went through various styles and shades on his television show — have been one of 600 items whose costs are monitored to compile the monthly retail price index, an important tool used by governments in calculating inflation.

They have been removed from the statistician's shopping basket in favour of a dressier item, chinos — those lightweight casual cotton trousers invented by an English army officer in India to counter the heat of the midday sun, and now seen in every British weekend summer high street.

Some hazy link lingers in the folk memory between cardigans and light ale: they jointly belong to an age before red braces and computers, when men had time to potter. Light ale and pale ale, once RPI staple indicators, have gone too, replaced in the theoretical but supposedly typical basket by alcopops and draughtflow bitter — those cans of beer with widgets that give them a head.

The Office for National Statistics, which compiles the RPI, said yesterday that the index was constantly updated to reflect market conditions, and what society was doing. It covers a variety of expenditure, including food, housing, clothes, leisure, motoring, fares and fuel. Among other changes are the arrival of road tolls but the dropping of super-unleaded petrol; not enough people buy it. Two other new, but not surprising, items are in — Internet and cable television subscriptions, and the purchase of CD-ROM computer software.

Significantly, government statisticians have decided fees and subscriptions are now a more important part of the RPI; at the same time, they have downgraded the importance of spending on UK holidays. The simplistic conclusion is that we are surfing the net rather than the ocean's waves. What with all those subscriptions and tolls, small wonder there is nothing left to spend on cardigans.

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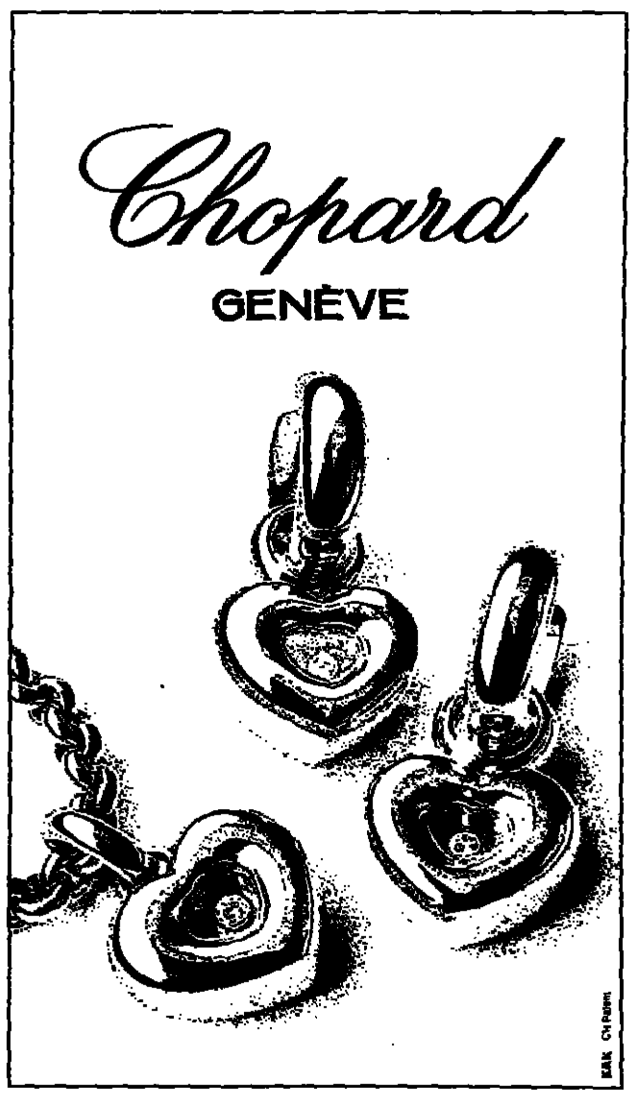

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Lights flashing, almost out of control: it's end-of-the-road rage

MATTHEW PARRIS

POLITICAL SKETCH

Just when you thought it was safe to return to Westminster... They need to coin a new term for it — "Mace rage" perhaps. As Parliament rises, the Prime Minister simply explodes. Like a bank manager driven beyond endurance, John Major flew off the handle during his final Prime Minister's Questions yesterday, lashing out in all directions. If it was less than statesmanlike, it was more than lively: it was awesome.

Major started hitting people almost before anyone had uttered. He took a swipe at Dennis Skinner, challenging him to quit. He landed a punch on John Prescott (who had not even spoken) accusing him of being in hock to the railway unions. And he accused Paddy Ashdown of finishing the session as he had started it, awash in piety and pomposity.

But it was Tony Blair who caught the full force. Needled by the Labour Leader's accusation that he was conspiring to supress a Commons watchdog report on alleged sleaze, the Prime Minister began a bombardment which threatened to keep Parliament sitting until Sunday.

It was like one of those domestic scenes in which some small but ill-judged remark sets a spark to the blue touch-paper — and *bang*. Everything Mr Major hates about Mr Blair came pouring out. Accused of sweeping corruption under the carpet, the Prime Minister angrily retorted that this was pretty rich, coming from a man who "sells policy to the trade unions for cash".

A sharp riposte. But getting it off his chest just seemed to get him going. Blair was someone who "refuses to comply with the code of practice on party funding, who calls for party openness but won't publish the secret funds of his own office..."

It all came pouring out. It was as though, having been the butt of personal remarks for more than two years of Tony Blair's Opposition leadership, and having, night after night, lain in bed repeating and repeating, *sotto voce*, all the things he *might* have replied but had always thought better of before, he now let fly.

On and on he went: "...Who attacks share options but takes money from millionaires for his own party; and attacks businessmen; and asks them to fund things for him: who flew Concorde and failed to declare it..."

Was there no end to this?

"...Who has a Deputy Leader (John Prescott) who spends a weekend at a five-star hotel and doesn't declare it and who flies to the other side of the world to do newspaper deals and never admits to them..."

Finally, shortage of breath, if not material, brought his tirade to an end. But not before one final outburst: "If there's any double standards, they sit *there*, on the Opposition benches!" he yelled. The Prime Minister sat down to perhaps the loudest Tory cheers he has received all this session. Minutes later, he left to renewed cheers, as many government backbenchers stood in the aisles, waving their order papers.

In some ways those final fifteen minutes encapsulated tell-tale elements of the strengths and weaknesses of all three principal party leaders during this Parliament. Fighting like a tiger when cornered, Major was well-armed in the detail but easily needled, losing stature and finding it hard to express anger while keeping his cool.

Tony Blair was poised, effective and controlled, but a faint odour of sanctity hanging over his words (he chose, yesterday, to talk of a "stain" on government) left us uncertain whether this was a budding headmaster or an officious head-boy.

And Paddy Ashdown was well-judged, a little righteous, and completely ignored.

Judge will decide if woman can be left to die

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

THE country's most senior family judge will rule today whether a severely brain-damaged former university student should be allowed to die, even though her condition may fall short of a persistent vegetative state.

In what is seen as a new "right-to-die" test case, Sir Stephen Brown, president of the High Court family division, is being asked to widen the category of chronically ill patients where life-sustaining treatment can be withdrawn to let them die in peace and with dignity.

The case was brought before Sir Stephen as an emergency after the feeding tube slipped from the young woman who has been in a coma for 18 months. Since the tube became disconnected on Tuesday, the woman, known as Miss D, aged 29, has only been receiving liquids and medicine through intravenous injections.

The judge has ruled in several past cases — including that of Tony Bland, the Hillsborough disaster victim — that life-sustaining treatment can be withdrawn because the patients were in apersistent vegetative state, known as PVS.

But in the present case, there is a dispute over whether the woman is in full PVS, as defined by the Royal College of Physicians, or "near PVS". Her eyes appear to track moving objects and she flinches if a gesture is made.

William Jennet, Professor of Neurology at Glasgow University and one of the experts consulted in Miss D's case, said yesterday that the hospital, with the backing of the woman's parents, had planned to seek permission to stop treatment anyway, but the tube disconnection gave more weight to its case.

"Reinsertion would require a minor surgical intervention. Not to insert it would be non-interventionist, which some people would find easier than active withdrawal of treatment," he said. Professor David Chadwick, called by the NHS Trust, said Miss D could linger for many years. "However I see no prospect of any improvement in her neurological state."

Professor Chadwick said: "In this instance I would strongly support the wishes of a wholly remarkable family who have made astounding efforts to support Miss D and give her every form of stimulation and support towards any recovery that might have been possible."

James Munby, QC, counsel for the Official Solicitor appointed to represent Miss D, who is formally opposing withdrawal of treatment, argued that the movements made by Miss D showed she was not in PVS.

But Professor Chadwick said it was simply a "primitive reflex" which "existed within the nervous system at a lower level than consciousness".

The woman's mother told the court that she agreed with the trust that artificial hydration and nutrition her daughter has been given should be discontinued.

Huw Lloyd, counsel for the trust, which, like all the parties in the case cannot be identified, told the judge the woman suffered from hydrocephalus when she was young, but went on to do well at school and go to university. She hoped to become a teacher.

Then she was involved in a car accident which left her paralysed and with severe mental problem. She needed 24-hour care, but was looked after at home by her parents. In 1995 she suffered a seizure and was taken to hospital where she was treated for hydrocephalus again.

"She finally opened her eyes but has not since regained any meaningful responsiveness," said Mr Lloyd. She had remained in hospital since. "It is the view of those who have examined her that she exhibits no cognitive evidence at all, that she is not aware and that no further change is likely. There is no medical intention to continue or reinstitute medical treatment."

DAVID KING

Beastly time: boys preparing to audition at the Dominion Theatre in London yesterday for Disney's £10 million production of *Beauty and the Beast*. They hope to play Chip, a child who is turned into a teacup

Parliament clears a flood of laws

By James Landale, Political Reporter

THE Government rushed a flood of Bills through the Commons and the Lords last night, in time for this morning's prorogation of Parliament. Ministers and whips stuck to a tight timetable to get as much as possible on the Statute Book.

MPs and peers leave Westminster today at the end of the year's session, but the five-year parliament will not formally come to a close until dissolution on April 8. After a fevered week of horsetrading by government and Labour business managers, most of the legislation was agreed and simply needed to be nodded through.

In the Lords, peers approved Commons amendments to the National Health Service (Primary Care) Bill, which now awaits Royal Assent to allow new experiments aimed at expanding the provision of GP services.

Peers also passed the Social Security Administration (Fraud) Bill, which allows councils and government departments to combat benefit fraud by cross-checking their computer records.

The Building Societies (Distributions) Bill passed its final stage in the Lords and should receive Royal Assent today. The measure is designed to ensure disabled and elderly investors receive their share of the windfalls arising from the conversion of building societies to banks.

In the Commons, MPs approved Lords amendments to the Public Entertainments Licences (Drug Misuse) Bill. Following a Home Office concession, the amendments water down the proposals to allow councils to close down night clubs where there is a serious drugs problem.

MPs also agreed Lords' amendments to the Crime and Punishment (Scotland) Bill which will now go for Royal Assent. The measure introduces automatic life sentences for offenders who commit three violent or sexual crimes and increases sentencing powers of the Scottish courts.

Cloning may have benefits, say MPs

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

THE cloning of human beings should be banned, but the door left open for possible uses of the technique in medicine, the Science and Technology Committee of the House of Commons has recommended.

In a report published yesterday, the committee warned that exaggerated reactions to Dolly — the cloned sheep produced at the Roslin Institute in Edinburgh — could obscure the potential benefits of the technique.

"This is a very significant, original piece of science that reflects great credit on British science," Sir Giles Shaw, chairman of the committee, said. "The media furore saying that human cloning was just around the corner helped to diminish this work."

The committee concludes that the regulations governing cloning research in Britain are appropriate, but that doubts remain over whether the use of the form of cloning developed at Roslin is forbidden in humans. This is because the 1990 Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act specifically refers to cloning using embryos, while the Roslin technique uses adult cells.

The HFEA and the Health Department are seeking legal advice over whether the act does cover the new technique, but the committee says that to make sure, the act should be amended.

"While counsel's opinion will clarify the position, it will obviously not be a binding interpretation of the law," the report concludes. "It is not satisfactory for issues as momentous as this to be left until they are decided through test cases. We recommend that the Act should be amended to ensure that the Roslin technique comes within its scope."

While it opposes human cloning, the committee says that the technique could produce cells or organs for medical purposes.

"It might be acceptable to produce human cells at the petri dish level," said Dr Lynne Jones, a member of the committee.

NEWS IN BRIEF

MoD attacked over Gulf War syndrome

The Ministry of Defence was severely criticised by MPs yesterday over its handling of Gulf War illnesses affecting more than 1,000 people. The Commons Defence Committee said that the ministry's approach had been influenced by a "culture of denial", and it was a matter of deep regret that so many veterans had been left to seek compensatiom through the courts. Those exposed to toxic organophosphate pesticides should receive ex-gratia payments.

The MPs highlighted the failure of MoD officials to warn ministers about the pesticides, but also expressed surprise that the ministers Nicholas Soames and Earl Howe had not been more inquisitive about their use.

Luxury life 'on expenses'

A chief officer who collected council rents in one of the poorest inner city areas in Britain used public funds to subsidise an expensive lifestyle, according to a report by auditors at Labour-controlled Islington Council, London. It showed that the chief rent officer paid a builder £96,000 to fit out a luxurious new office and spent a further £35,000 on furniture for it. Her expenses included a fridge freezer, television and video recorder, sofa and holiday facilities.

Bletchley Park plea

Baroness Trumpington, a Government Whip in the House of Lords who served at Bletchley Park during the Second World War, was urged by peers to help to save the secret codebreakers' headquarters near Milton Keynes as a museum. Asked by Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, patron of the Bletchley Park Trust, whether the Government believed that the park should become a national monument, she said that she hoped it would be preserved.

Spice for Channel 5

Channel 5 has recruited the Spice Girls to head its launch on March 30. The five-girl pop group will be the first to appear on the opening night in a promotional video featuring a remake of Manfred Mann's 1960s hit *5-4-3-2-1*. Also rumoured to be making a comeback on the new channel is Roland Rat, who was brought in to boost viewing figures on TV-am. The puppet could join the weekend children's programme *The Mag*.

Singer's ex-lover jailed

The former lover of the pop star Gabrielle was jailed for life at Nottingham Crown Court for murdering his stepfather and chopping off his head with a Samurai sword. Anthony Antoniou, 31, of Sheffield, and Timothy Redhead, 29, of Woodhouse, Sheffield, had both denied murdering Walter McCarthy, 59. Redhead was jailed for three years after admitting assisting Antoniou in the disposal of Mr McCarthy's head.

Britons keep growing

The height of the average Briton could rise by five inches (13cm) over the next few generations, according to an American professor. Better nourished mothers and a fall in smoking during pregnancy will produce healthier babies, Professor Robert Fogel, from Chicago University, told a meeting in London. Humans had a long way to go before reaching their optimum height, size or life expectancy, he said.

Minister's son banned

Alexander Bonsor, right, 20, son of Sir Nicholas Bonsor, the Tory minister, was banned from driving for 14 months and ordered to pay fines and costs totalling £640 for a drink-driving "escapade". Bristol magistrates were told that officers saw sparks flying from underneath the student's Ford Sierra and found Bonsor driving with eight fellow Bristol University students, including two in the boot.

Race to the death

The country's oldest and oddest horse race had an unhappy ending yesterday when the winning horse collapsed and died after crashing into a parked car. Sunny, a nine-year-old mare, failed to pull up after passing the winning post in the 471st running of the 4½-mile Kiplingcotes Derby in east Yorkshire. It then collapsed of an apparent heart attack. Its jockey, Sheila Ashby, was unhurt.

The hoax skeleton in Arthur Conan Doyle's cupboard

By Daniel McGrory

THE finger of suspicion was pointed at Sir Arthur Conan Doyle yesterday as science's greatest hoaxer, the man who fooled the world with the discovery of Piltdown Man.

Rival academics using detective skills worthy of Sherlock Homes, Conan Doyle's master detective, were presenting their conflicting evidence in London.

The discovery of "the earliest Englishman" in a gravel pit in Sussex in 1912 supposedly proved the missing link between man and ape and was to fool science's finest minds for over 40 years. Long since satisfied that Piltdown Man was a crude forgery, scientists now cover their embarrassment by an annual battle to unmask the hoaxer.

Richard Milner, a scientific historian from the American Museum of Natural History, believes Conan Doyle even left us clues as to his guilt in his adventure books. He is convinced the author planted the skull as his revenge on the scientific establishment by offering them proof of what they wanted to believe about mankind's ancestry.

Copnan Doyle lived near the excavation site and was a familiar figure at the Piltdown golf course. He was said to have littered his dinosaur adventure book *Lost World* in 1912 with clues about his hoax.

The scientific saga had begun the previous summer when Charles Dawson, a country solicitor and amateur archaeologist, was handed an unusually thick skullbone found by a farm labourer. Excited by the discovery, Dawson began digging in the gravelpit and a year later found the now infamous apelike jawbone — the supposed missing link.

Professor Brian Gardiner, president of the Linnean Society of London, said yesterday: "I remain convinced Piltdown Man was a glorious joke that simply got out of hand."

However, Piltdown Man remained scientific fact until 1953, when Professor Gardiner was a young student working in the Natural History Museum. Senior academics there decided to take a more critical look. They promptly pronounced it a forgery with a cleverly fused mixture of a human skull and an orangutan jaw, which had been stained to give it the appearance of age.

Since then scientists have wrangled over the identity of the hoaxer and had at the last count a list of 27 suspects. The Linnean society has taken the lead in this scientific whodunnit.

At yesterday's debate, staged as part of National Science Week, Richard Milner explained how the battle between spiritualists like Conan Doyle and the materialist scientists was the motive for the hoax.

"Conan Doyle was embittered by the prosecution and trial of Henry Slade, an American and one of his favourite sidekicks, and was frankly fed up at being ridiculted by scientists. Piltdown Man was Conan Doyle's chance to teach the scientists a thing or to about evidence."

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Law lord's son waged vendetta

Vandal barrister scratched cars in revenge attacks

By Joanna Bale and Frances Gibb

THE barrister son of a former law lord faces professional disgrace after he repeatedly vandalised two cars belonging to neighbours after a parking dispute.

Police arrested Hugh Donovan, 63, after setting up a 24-hour surveillance camera which recorded him creeping out of his house at night to scratch a Porsche 911 and a Range Rover belonging to Mark and Tracy Girling. The cars were parked in an affluent tree-lined street in Fulham, southwest London, where residents say parking is at a premium because the houses do not have drives.

During interviews with detectives, Donovan admitted damaging the cars with keys on eight separate occasions and may be disbarred at a Bar Council disciplinary hearing. West London Magistrates' Court was told on Wednesday that Mr and Mrs Girling complained to police that their cars had been repeatedly vandalised outside their £450,000 terraced Victorian home since an argument with Donovan in the street on December 23, 1995.

Adrian Foster, for the prosecution, said Donovan admitted damaging the cars for revenge after an altercation where he "called into question their parking and driving ability". Donovan, who was called to the Bar in 1959 but stopped practising as a barrister six years ago, pleaded guilty to two counts of criminal damage. Dressed in a pinstriped suit, he told the court that he was representing himself and handed over a letter of mitigation to the magistrate Dudley Thomas, which was not read out. When asked to explain his financial circumstances, he handed over a letter from his accountant.

Mr Thomas said: "Taking into account the matters you have put before me, I will take a preventative course of action to make sure you do not do this activity again." Donovan was given a two-year conditional discharge with £30 court costs. He was also ordered to pay £7,441 compensation to the Girlings which he said he could pay within three months.

The barrister, who lives seven doors down from the Girlings with his wife Margaret, a schoolteacher, has two adult children. A Bar Council spokesman said: "There is a possibility he could be disbarred as a result of that hearing."

Residents in the a narrow road lined with Victorian terraced houses, said that parking was often a problem because there was only room for one car per household. James Stafford said: "Many people here own two, even three cars per household, so it is a terrible problem in the evenings when everyone comes home from work.

> ❛ People do get very wound up about not being able to park near their houses ❜

"People do get very wound up about not being able to park near their houses. My car has been accidentally scratched a couple of times by people trying to squeeze into tiny spaces. However, that does not justify vandalism. It is a common problem of living in the middle of a big city."

Another neighbour, who declined to be named, added: "Mr Donovan is a very volatile man and I have had run-ins with him myself. He has even banged on the door to complain about my television being too loud." Another added: "He is a lovely man. We have known him for the last 18 years. They are a fine upstanding Catholic family. It is extremely sad for him. I am sure he will be devastated."

Mr and Mrs Girling were abroad on a skiing holiday and unavailable for comment, but one neighbour said: "They are a nice young couple with a small baby. This has been a nightmare for them and they are just glad it is all over."

Donovan's father, Lord Donovan, was a Law Lord as well as being chairman of the Royal Commission on Trade Unions and Employers' Associations.

Apart his judicial career (High Court from 1950-60, Court of Appeal from 1960 to 1963 and a Law Lord from 1963) the late Lord Donovan was active in Labour politics.

In 1950 he was elected for North East Leicester and while the Labour Party was still in power was offered a judgeship. But it was his chairmanship of the Royal Commission on Trade Unions and Employers' Associations which made his name.

The Donovan report, as it was known, was the first into the problems of industrial relations for more than 60 years and was set up becasue of the rise in the number of strikes. But the report rejected strong legislative regulation of industrial relations. He died, aged 73, in 1971.

Ironically in Donovan's time at the Bar, at which he became known for his work in planning disputes, the barrister found himself in one of his last cases acting on behalf of a group of residents complaining about neighbourhood traffic and noise.

In April 1990, he acted in a feud between Terence Donovan, the photographer, and Jayne Mynors, the headmistress of the exclusive Kensington kindergarten where Princes William and Harry started school.

Teenage mother wins court backing for truancy

By David Charter
Education Correspondent

MAGISTRATES yesterday gave their backing to a schoolgirl mother who has skipped lessons for the past 18 months to look after her son. Kelly Turner was 13 when she fell pregnant and last attended lessons two months before the boy, Jake, was born.

Kelly's mother, 33-year-old Mandy Turner, was cleared of failing to send her back to Middlefield School in Gainsborough, Lincolnshire, after the birth. The Turner family successfully claimed they were offered no adequate long-term care for Jake, leaving Kelly with no alternative but to stay at home to look after him.

Lincolnshire County Council, which brought the prosecution, claimed the family were determined all along to oppose all its help and said it feared the case created a significant precedent. It raised the spectre of education authorities losing the power to order the hundreds of schoolgirls who fall pregnant every year back into the classroom.

Kelly, who lives with her mother, said: "I told the council I would go back to school, but only if they would help me provide proper care for Jake."

Mrs Turner, who faced a possible fine of up to £1,000 or a jail sentence if convicted, said that the family were relieved the case was over. Mrs Turner said: "Kelly always stated that she wanted to go back to school if they could provide her with a permanent minder. But she was left with no alternative but to stay off because they would only provide help for two months.

"Her son comes first, and she was not going to have him passed between people like a parcel. What sort of mother would I have been if I had stopped her?"

Andrew Jay, the family's solicitor, said: "The council refused to offer long-term assistance in looking after Jake, and then to add insult to injury, they actually prosecuted Kelly's mother."

Kelly Turner and her son, Jake: she has not attended class since her pregnancy

Lincolnshire social services offered to provide two months of childcare for the baby and the school was willing to rearrange Kelly's lessons to fit in with her own babysitting plans. Jeff Deakin, the county's education director, said he thought the decision by the town's magistrates "went against the law of the land".

However the council does not plan to appeal because Kelly turns 16 in a few weeks and will be legally allowed to leave school.

Mr Deakin said: "This case could be of significance up and down the land. Magistrates, in considering the balance between Kelly in her role as a parent and Kelly in her role as a pupil, has concluded it is the former that must take precedence."

The Department for Education last night said that it was unable to comment until it had received details of the case.

Man of 75 denies attack on woman aged 84

By A Staff Reporter

A WAR veteran aged 75 punched a woman of 84 in the face when she tried to break up a dispute he was having with her son, a court was told yesterday. Marguerite Cameron plunged into a flower bed, suffering cuts to her face and knee, and bruises to her chest, it was claimed.

Her alleged assailant, Philip Butler, was arrested by police and told them he was also assaulted, with a rubber dustbin lid. Mr Butler, of Basingstoke, Hampshire, denies assaulting Mrs Cameron, causing her actual bodily harm.

Andrew Barnet, for the prosecution at Winchester Crown Court, said the incident happened on a pathway behind Mr Butler's home when council workmen began cutting down trees. There was a dispute between Mr Butler and Mrs Cameron's son Alan, a neighbour, who is in his fifties.

Mrs Cameron saw Mr Butler pushing her son and went out and told them to stop. Mr Barnet said: "Mr Butler punched her in the face sufficiently hard to push her back, causing her to fall."

Part of a garden cane became embedded in Mrs Cameron's face and she had to have an operation to remove the splinters. After his arrest Mr Butler told police he had been pushed and fell on Mrs Cameron by accident.

"He claimed he had been hit with a rubber dustbin lid by her son," Mr Barnet said. Mrs Cameron, now in a wheelchair, told the court that her son had gone out to talk to the council workmen to try to stop them cutting down the trees. She said she saw Butler get hold of her son by the shirt and shake him, saying: "I'll kill you."

Mr Cameron told the jury he had been upset to see the trees being cut down. When he spoke to the council foreman he was told that Mr Butler had complained about falling branches.' Mr Butler then suddenly appeared from behind his hedge and attacked without provocation.

The trial continues.

'Blessing traumatised boy of 12'

By Ruth Gledhill

A BOY aged 12 was so traumatised by a church youth weekend that he was unable to eat for 24 hours and could speak only in monosyllables, according to a report today in *The Church Times*.

Eleanor Theyer said her son Adam suffered a charismatic "indoctrination" when he lost consciousness after two worship leaders laid hands on his head and body during a weekend organised by her local church. Although the church was not Anglican, the phenomenon involved, known as the Toronto Blessing, is spreading throughout the evangelical wing of the established Church. When the blessing is invoked worshippers jump up and down, faint, laugh or bark like dogs.

Writing under an assumed name to protect her son's identity, Mrs Theyer compared the events of the church weekend to the mind-control techniques of cults. "I had never heard of the Toronto Blessing," she said. "My feeling on learning of what had happened was one of outrage. I felt that my child had been abused."

Mrs Theyer complained to her minister, who contacted the youth leaders concerned. They promised that the Toronto Blessing would no longer be invoked during youth activities.

Elegant widow, 74, was the victim of ritualistic killing

By Lin Jenkins

AN ELEGANT wealthy widow who was half stripped, bound hand and foot and stabbed to death was the victim of a ritualistic killing, police said yesterday.

Alice Rye, 74, died after letting her attacker into her detached home in the village of Spital, Merseyside. There were no signs of a struggle but she was taken into the spare bedroom, her hands tied behind her back, a bandage put round her neck, and stabbed in the chest.

Police said elements to her injuries suggested that the killing in December was ritualistic with a sexual motive, but would not say if they believed there were religious or satanic overtones.

Detectives said that Mrs Rye had meetings in a pub during the two years before she died with a man in his 60s who was unknown to her family and friends. They issued an artist's impression of the well-dressed man. The couple used to meet in the lounge of a pub on the edge of a council estate close to the M53, about ten miles from her home.

Mrs Rye, the widow of a company director, used to accompany her husband on business trips to China, Africa and Japan. She was described as was strikingly attractive and immaculately dressed.

Staff and customers of the Twenty Row Inn, Wallasey, recall the elderly couple who differed from the usual clientele as they sat in an alcove having ordered a pint of bitter and a glass of white wine.

Detective Chief Inspector George Denton said the man appeared refined, smartly dressed and well-spoken, with a round face and white thinning hair. "The visits were in the afternoon, midweek, but there was never any regular pattern," he said. "The pub concerned could have been some midway meeting point for Alice and some former colleague. This is not the typically the type of pub she would frequent.

"Suggestions that these meetings might have been clandestine trysts with a gentleman are pure speculation. It could be that the pub was a convenient halfway point at which she arranged to meet up with a personal friend from her past, or business associate.

"Certainly at their age we would consider any friendship which she pursued was purely platonic. We have got to remain open-minded about it, but if this man can be ruled out of our inquires it will certainly assist us."

Penguin to settle over royalties

By Robin Young

THE estates of authors including Virginia Woolf and James Joyce are to receive more money after an agreement reached with Penguin Books over the payment of royalties.

The books involved in the deal returned to copyright at the beginning of last year when the European Union opted to extend copyright to 70 years after the author's death. Copyright in Britain had traditionally been 50 years.

Penguin has now reached agreement with the literary agents A. P. Watt and the Society of Authors, representing specific literary estates including those of Woolf, Yeats, Rudyard Kipling, Arthur Conan Doyle and John Buchan. The terms are likely to prove a model for the industry.

Margaret Bluman, Penguin's contracts director, said yesterday that each deal varied slightly but that Penguin's standard terms were 10 per cent of net receipts, meaning that the proportion paid in royalties would be calculated after discounts allowed to retailers, which in Penguin's case would often be up half of the wholesale price.

David Campbell, managing director of the hardback Everyman Library, said that he had also reached the basis of an agreement which he hoped to see finalised within a few weeks.

Tagged thief used monitor as free phone

By Richard Ford, Home Correspondent

A THIEF who had been electronically tagged tapped into the BT line linked to the equipment to make 61 free telephone calls to his family. Stewart Palgrave was a social man who liked making calls to his mother and brother, his solicitor told Norwich magistrates yesterday.

The bill for the calls made by Palgrave, 32, of Heathgate, Norwich, had to be paid by Geografix, the firm carrying out a tagging experiment throughout Norfolk.

Palgrave, a fruit packer, had been fitted with an electronic bracelet around his wrist and a telephone line was installed to his flat, where he was under curfew for offences of theft and attempted theft.

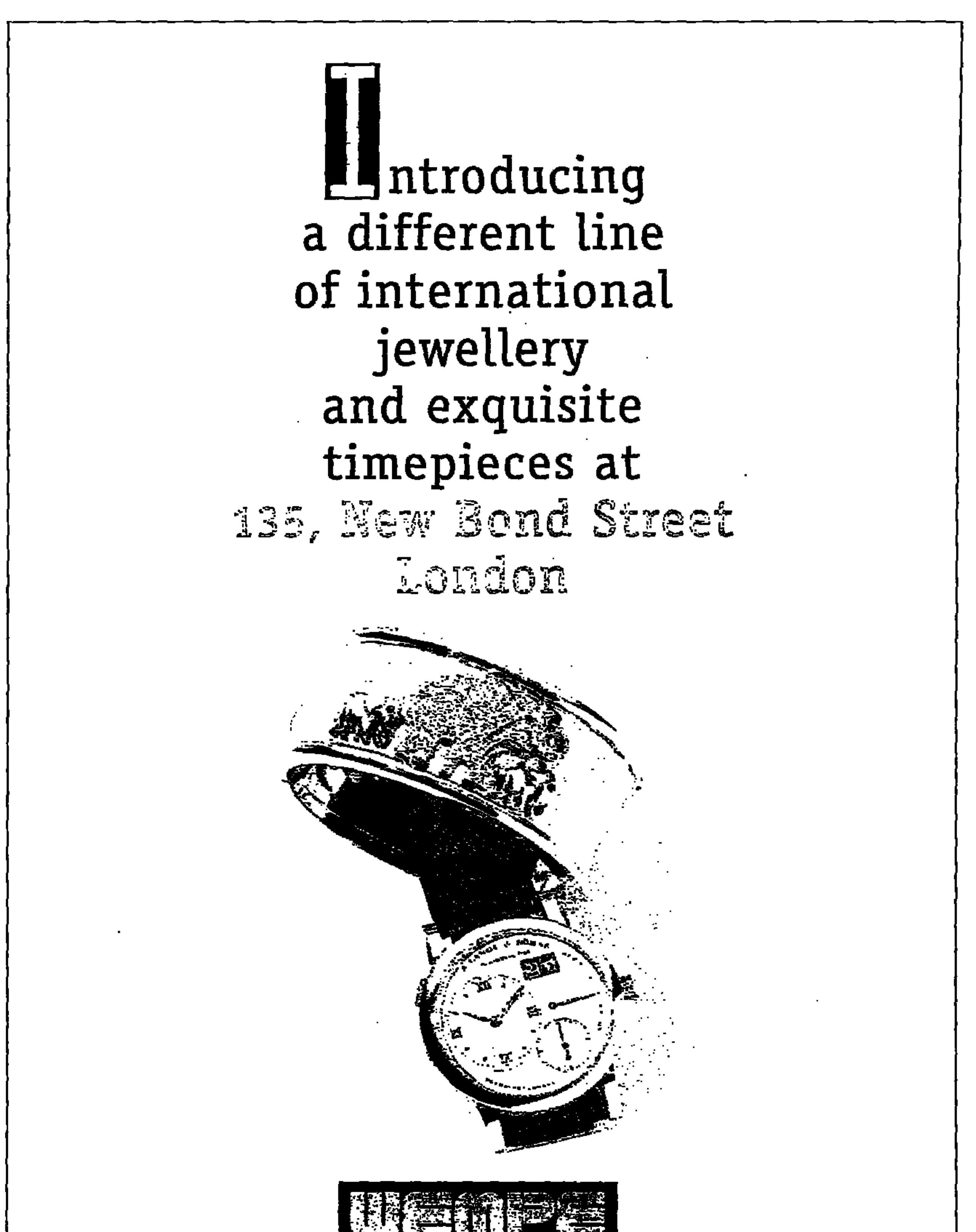
John Pitt, for the prosecution, said the line into the flat was attached to a monitoring box with a fitted antenna. An electronic signal is sent from the bracelet to the antenna if the curfew is broken, which Palgrave did on several occasions. The information is transmitted down the telephone line to the monitoring station.

Last September it was discovered that Palgrave had been tampering with the equipment. Mr Pitt said: "He had interfered with it so he could make personal telephone calls along the BT line. It seems he had another line and had tapped into the line." He said that the calls were billed to Geografix.

Palgrave had also snapped the antenna off the monitoring box, the court was told. Katharine Moore, his solicitor, told the court that he had been "curious" about the technology. She added: "He is a social man. He was phoning his mother or brother". Palgrave led a chaotic and disorganised life and was unsuitable for electronic tagging linked to a curfew order, she added. He broke his curfew on 14 separate occasions, once for just six minutes.

Magistrates jailed Palgrave for four months after being told of his "awful performance" while under curfew. He was resentenced for the original offences for which he had been curfewed and a separate theft he admitted.

Andrew Hone, head of monitoring services with Geografix, said outside the court: "There are now a number of safeguards on the lines to prevent this happening. I would not like to say exactly how he did it."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One in 20 needs drink to make it through day

By Jeremy Laurance
Health Correspondent

ONE in 20 people cannot get through the day without a drink because of alcohol dependence, according to a report.

Twice as many people are addicted to alcohol as to all other legal and illegal drugs and the level of dependence is a major social and medical problem, the charity Alcohol Concern says.

The report, *Measures for Measures*, says that 1.3 million men and 500,000 women drink at "very risky" levels — defined as over 50 units of alcohol a week (equivalent to 25 pints of ordinary beer, six bottles of wine or one and a half bottles of spirits). Recommended safe limits are 28 units a week for men and 21 units for women.

Excessive drinking causes 33,000 alcohol-related deaths each year and 28,000 hospital admissions. Alcohol is also involved in 15 per cent of deaths on the roads.

Eric Appleby, director, said: "While it is clearly important to address the problems caused by drug abuse, we must also take urgent action to tackle alcohol misuse which is ruining the lives of many more people."

The charity called for a national strategy to combat alcohol dependence, including measures to curb drinking among the young.

Pregnant terror suspect joins election race for her mother's former seat

McAliskey daughter to stand for Parliament

By Nicholas Watt, *Chief Ireland Correspondent*

Roisin McAliskey and her mother: their decision has angered Sinn Fein, which hopes to win mid-Ulster

THE pregnant daughter of Bernadette McAliskey entered the election campaign yesterday with an announcement that she would contest her mother's old Mid-Ulster seat from a London prison cell.

In a move reminiscent of the successful campaign by the late hunger-striker Bobby Sands in 1981, Roisin McAliskey said she would attempt to oust the sitting Democratic Unionist MP if she is still in jail on polling day. The move angered Sinn Fein, jeopardising the chances of their candidate, Martin McGuinness, in a seat which he had high hopes of winning.

Miss McAliskey, 25, who is seven months pregnant, is being held at Holloway Prison awaiting extradition to Germany on charges of attempted murder and possession of explosives. The case in linked to an IRA mortar attack on a British Army base in Germany last June. She has been refused bail while she challenges the extradition. In a statement issued by her mother, she called on other nationalists to stand aside in the predominantly Catholic seat to give her a clear run against the hardline Rev Willie McCrea. Her mother, the then Bernadette Devlin, captured Mid-Ulster in 1969 at the age of 21.

Sinn Fein issued a terse statement saying that nationalists should agree on a unity candidate if Miss McAliskey's anouncement was a "realistic proposition". However, the SDLP insisted that it would contest Mid-Ulster.

Leading members of Sinn Fein were understood to be furious with Mrs McAliskey. Miss McAliskey could eat into Mr McGuinness's vote by attracting support from both moderate and hardline nationalists who sympathise with her plight.

Although Catholics account for 60 per cent of the constituency's population, Unionists have held the seat for more than 20 years because Sinn Fein and the SDLP both contest the seat. Mrs McAliskey, who stood as an independent nationalist, was the first victim of the split vote in February 1974 when the SDLP stood against her.

The tight electoral arithmetic means that Miss McAliskey could upset Sinn Fein's strategy of winning up to three seats at the election. Gerry Adams, the party president, is widely tipped to recapture West Belfast because boundary changes have worked in his favour. Mid-Ulster is second on the party's target list and Sinn Fein could win the new seat of West Tyrone if Unionists fail to agree on a single candidate. Sinn Fein knows that if it wins more than one seat, the new Government will face tremendous pressure to hold bilateral talks with the party.

Mrs McAliskey said that her daughter had decided to contest Mid-Ulster to put pressure on the authorities to release her before the birth of her child. Mrs McAliskey, 49, said: "In the face of the continued refusal of the British court to acknowledge her right to bail and the British administration's racist belligerence, insult and inhumanity we feel this may be her only opportunity to secure her release before the birth of her child."

Mrs McAliskey's decision to encourage her daughter to stand appeared to mark her latest skirmish with the Sinn Fein leadership. The former MP was a vehement opponent of the IRA ceasefire and famously remarked on the day that it was declared in August 1994: "The war is over and the good guys lost."

In a debate on the peace process in West Belfast, just before the first anniversary of the ceasefire in 1995, Mrs McAliskey virtually silenced Mr Adams when she stood up and asked: "Gerry, what is your plan B?"

Ref halts game after player's legal threat

By Daniel McGrory

ALL 22 players in a bad-tempered football match faced being sent for an early bath after one of them threatened to sue the referee if he ended up injured.

The official halted the game in the Jewson Wessex League and marched to the touchline for a 20-minute consultation with linesmen about his legal liability. Confused players from Thatcham Town and their visitors, Portsmouth RN, milled about as the referee, Andy Young, sought assurances that he was indemnified from prosecution.

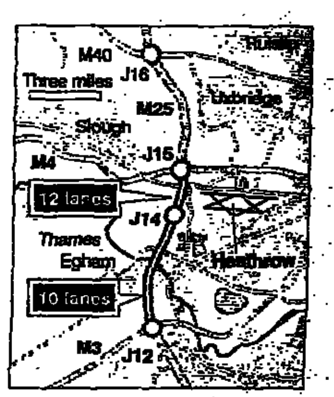
The interruption came late in the second half after the Portsmouth full back shouted: "I'm going to sue you, ref, if I get my leg busted."

As the officials consulted, both managers assured them they would not be hiring barristers in the event of injury. The referee was persuaded to let battle recommence and Thatcham won 4-2. The full back survived unscathed.

Mr Young refused to comment yesterday. The Football Association said: "Anyone can sue anyone if they feel so inclined. But our rule 13 states, 'A referee shall not be held liable for any kind of injury suffered by player, official or spectator.'" If a player thought a game too rough, it was up to him to tell his captain he wanted to go off.

M25 to get 12 lanes around Heathrow

By Kevin Eason
Motoring Editor



THE country's busiest motorway is to become the widest after the Government announced plans yesterday to make parts of the M25 six lanes in each direction.

The 12-lane stretch will be on the west side of the London ring road, between junction 14, the Heathrow airport turnoff, and junction 15, the turnoff for the M4.

Another section, between junctions 12 and 14, which links the M25 to the M3, will be widened to five lanes in each direction. The M25 is already four lanes wide between junctions 12 and 15, but is often jammed.

John Watts, a Transport Minister, gave the go-ahead for the £93 million lane-widening scheme, which he described as "an important step forward in the relief of congestion for this very busy motorway". The new six-lane highway would mean that the M25 could cope with traffic growth into the next century.

The decision was welcomed by motoring organisations, which have campaigned for action to relieve the misery of motorists who have to endure driving on Europe's most congested motorway. However, campaigners against plans for a new fifth terminal at Heathrow will be dismayed. Improved road links could be an important factor in favour of building the new terminal.

The widening scheme is being introduced after the Government was forced to scrap plans for A-road links that would have run alongside the M25, effectively creating a 14-lane highway.

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Wounded fans say tactics by Portuguese police nearly caused another Hillsborough

Britain demands explanation on United shootings

By John Goodbody and Adrian Lee

THE Foreign Office yesterday demanded a detailed report from Portuguese police, who opened fire on Manchester United fans with rubber and plastic bullets.

Supporters returning from their team's match against FC Porto in Oporto on Wednesday night complained of police brutality that left 18 fans needing hospital treatment. Uefa, the European football governing body, began an inquiry into the violent events that marred United's 0-0 quarter final clash, which was attended by 10,500 English supporters.

Delfim Passos, the Oporto police chief, said: "We fired plastic and rubber pellets in the air and on the ground to contain the English fans. We did not use excessive force. We have a clear conscience."

He told a press conference: "The police were obliged to act because of the situation created by the United fans." He said that 18 police officers had been injured, one seriously, as United supporters threw chunks of china from smashed stadium lavatories.

In the most combustible incident involving an English club in European football competitions since the 1985 Heysel stadium disaster, fans also alleged chaotic organisation. They said police behaviour might have caused another Hillsborough disaster. Fans were treated for crush injuries, bruising from batons and pellet wounds.

United, which won the two-leg European Cup quarter-final tie 4-0 on aggregate, set up its own investigation while the Foreign Office ordered a full report from Portuguese police. The disciplinary committee of Uefa will discuss its independent observer's investigation on Tuesday.

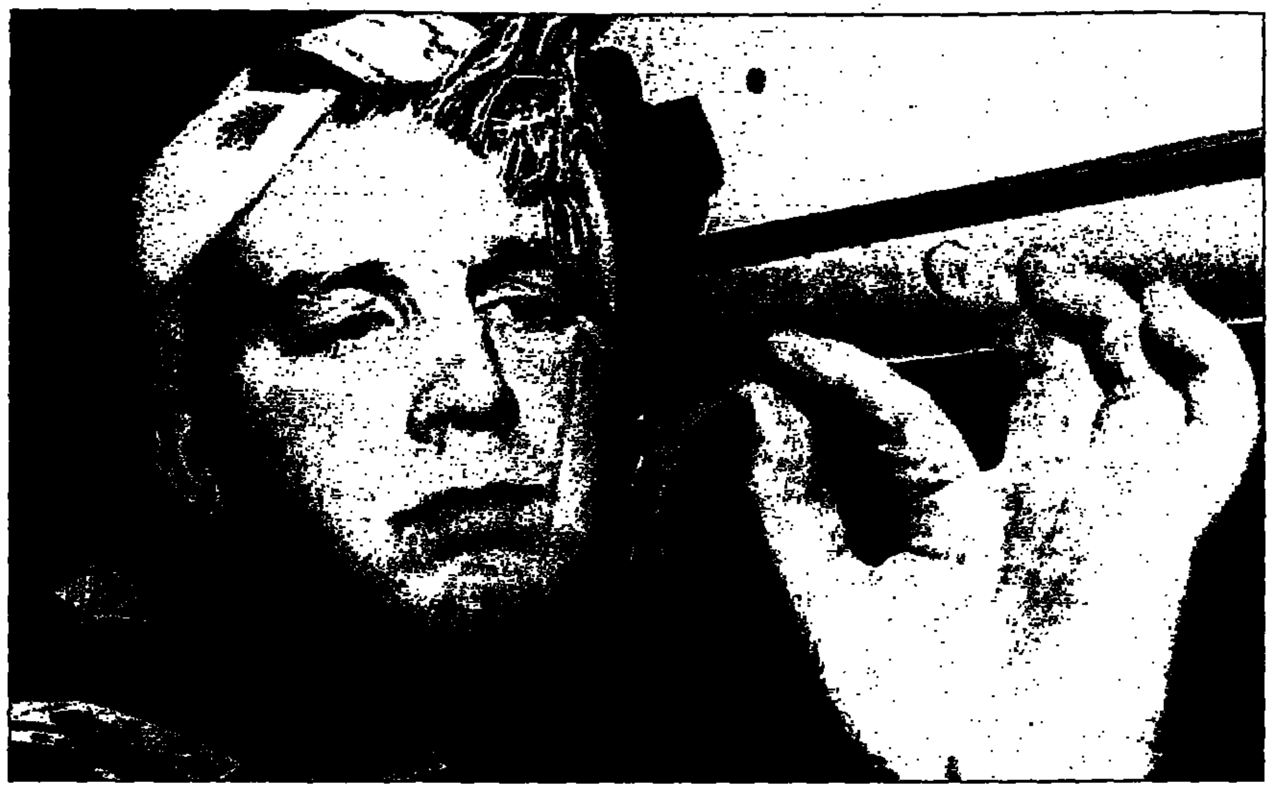
When shocked United fans arrived back on charter flights at Ringway Airport, Ashley Maddock, 15, from Chester, displayed a foot-long weal across his shoulders. He said: "People were being pushed in a funnel, and they could see there was no escape. You either took your chances of being crushed or faced the police, who did not want anyone to leave the area."

Ken Farrimond, one of United's security managers, said: "It could have been another Hillsborough." He described the shepherding of thousands of visiting fans down a narrow cobbled back-street before the game to just three turnstiles as "a recipe for trouble". The problems increased inside the stadium before the game began. Mrs Ali Crimes, from Salford, said that United supporters were crammed into tightly packed pens on towering terraces and they had to tear away fences to stop themselves being crushed.

Kevin Jones, 28, from Wrexham, North Wales, was brought off a plane in a wheelchair and taken by ambulance to Wythenshawe Hospital after being hit in the leg by a rubber bullet, fired after the game. About 650 police, including the riot squad, were on duty, supported by 150 security officers from Manchester.

"There was a crowd of us trying to get out of a gate which officials would not open," Mr Jones said. "Suddenly the gates were opened and we saw the police facing us through a gap a couple of feet wide. They opened fire without warning. I was hit and screamed with pain. We had done nothing wrong."

Oporto police, who in the mid-1970s were involved in another shooting incident when four Benfica followers died, at first denied that they had used plastic pellets to control the United fans.


A Manchester United supporter with a plastic pellet fired by police; they can break the skin and cause shallow wounds

A fan shows his injury

'An indiscriminate weapon'

By Adrian Lee

THE plastic pellets fired at Manchester United fans are favoured by several European police forces. About a quarter of an inch in diameter, they are much smaller than the plastic baton rounds, commonly described as bullets, used in Northern Ireland. They are contained in cartridges which scatter about 15 pellets when fired.

The Banelli anti-riot pellets are designed to be shot into the ground to bounce up or at legs. They can break the flesh and leave shallow wounds. Supporters in Oporto showed injuries to their lower bodies and arms. One man was hit in the head.

One expert said yesterday that he was amazed that the pellets, which travel at 1,000ft per second, had been fired at football fans. "They are totally indiscriminate and fired from close range can do a lot of damage. They are supposed to bounce up into limbs but they can easily hit the face or the eye." The practice of firing into the ground and bouncing the pellets into targets is known as "skip firing".

In Northern Ireland, 16 people have been killed and more than 500 injured by plastic bullets, which were first used in 1973. They have never been used on the mainland. In skilled hands, baton rounds are regarded as more accurate than pellets and it is possible to pick out individual trouble makers.

Alcohol and police inexperience made trouble predictable

The Portuguese police may have been unprepared, but that is no excuse for the drunken misbehaviour of so many English football fans, says ***Rob Hughes****, chief sports writer*

THE portents of Oporto went unheeded, with very nearly tragic consequences. On Tuesday at Manchester Airport, even at 8am, the departure lounge heaved with loud and boisterous Manchester United fans, and you would not have put a lighted match to the mouths of many. Once United's charter plane had reached Oporto, they were there again by the score, cavorting on the carousel as United's players waited for their luggage.

Where was the security? Adrian Titcombe, the Football Association safety officer, was in attendance as an observer, and a worried man he looked. He must have heard the uncannily accurate prediction from Marilia Astle, one of the British Embassy staff from Lisbon sent to monitor the event and to attempt to diffuse the situation in advance: she said there would be 10,000 Manchester fans for whom only 6,400 tickets had been allocated.

On to the stadium, to the main event in which United were to be praised for ensuring that FC Porto fired only blanks. Immediately outside the Estadio Das Antas, one saw the first riot squad excess. A group of youths was baying at the militia, one officer of the law lost his discipline and cracked his baton heavily on to a shaven head. Before kick off the score was 20 injured, three taken to hospital and at least one with baton wounds.

The problem outside the ground was scarcely known to us, even though security staff were in radio communication throughout. But at the end of the game, a red flare was lit on the United terracing. Immediately afterwards a rocket was fired. If the fans were all innocent, why had one brought such a weapon, similar to the rocket which killed a spectator at Cardiff Arms Park a few seasons ago?

Within seconds of that, we heard the first volleys of gunfire. There were two specific rounds, and though some officials tried to shrug it off as fireworks, the overworked medical staffs were deployed taking out five wounded United fans. Even then the police were insisting: "Not a single shot was fired."

Even then some of the walking wounded were showing to the press the pellets, small and perfectly round like peas, and the announcements, in English, were repeatedly calling for calm, instructing the United followers to remain in their steel cages until the police could ensure their safe removal.

But it was the police themselves whom the fans now feared and those Mancunians taken away in wheelchairs were too frightened to give their names. After the evacuation, Graham Kelly, the FA Chief Executive, perpetuated the illusion of English innocents being fired upon irrationally by foreign police forces. Mr Kelly had not been on the trip, but he took the judgment that the English are victims. They are, many of them, but when will this country stop exporting so-called supporters, fuelled by drink and without legitimate tickets, and then blame foreign police forces for not coping in the same manner as our own?

They have, abroad, no real experience, no grounds fully monitored by closed circuit cameras, and not the ease of language or the past history of isolating troublemakers.

Bishops angry at secret deal on TV ads

By Ruth Gledhill
Religion Correspondent

A LEADING Church of England bishop last night distanced the Church hierarchy from a television advertising campaign organised by two dioceses over Easter.

The commercial, which features people praying while they drive a car, wait for a bus or visit the hairdresser, has caused a furious debate among Church leaders, who are angry that they were not consulted. Details of the advertisement were leaked to *Campaign* magazine yesterday.

The Bishops of Birmingham and Lichfield, in whose dioceses the advertisments will appear, knew of the scheme, as did the Archbishop of Canterbury, but the Archbishop of York and most of the Church's 44 diocesan bishops did not. The Right Rev Nigel McCulloch, Bishop of Wakefield and head of the Church's communications committee, said: "This advertisement alarms me. This is not the Church of England. I was absolutely flabbergasted when I learnt about it. I could not believe it, after all we have been through with previous advertising campaigns."

As head of the communications committee, he would have expected to be one of the first to know. "Until yesterday, I knew absolutely nothing about this advertising initiative," he said. "I recognise that it is an attempt by individuals to make creative use of television in order to encourage people to go to Church. But I am convinced that, as far as the Church of England is concerned, we simply cannot go on creating this kind of publicity without reference to other people in the Church."

Bishop McCulloch will be calling a meeting of all those involved in church advertising to formulate a coherent policy for the future. He said: "The impression is being given that what these two dioceses are doing has the full backing of the Church of England. But the communications committee of the General Synod had at no stage been informed about this initiative."

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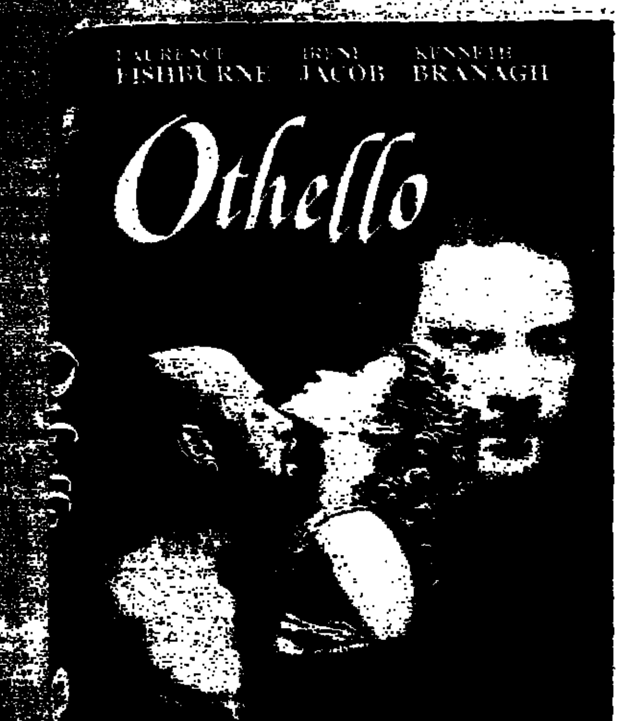

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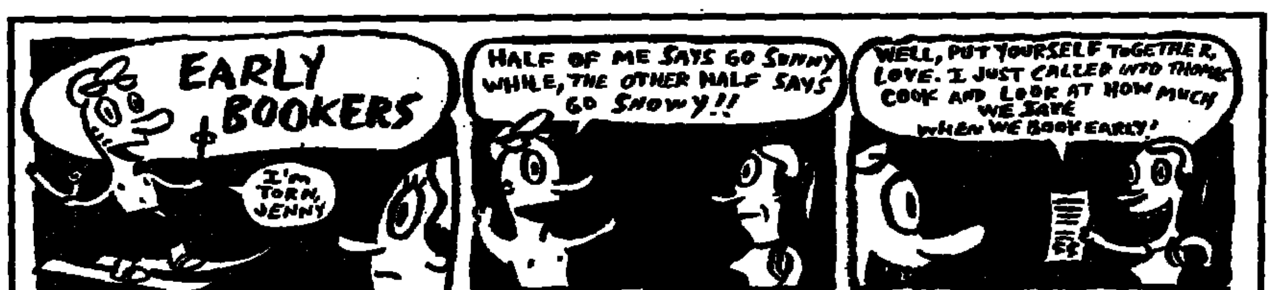
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Thomas Cook

Deaths from new CJD strain 'may run to thousands'

By Michael Hornsby, Agriculture Correspondent

TENS of thousands of people may die from the new strain of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, the brain condition linked to BSE, scientists said yesterday.

A year to the day since the Government admitted the likelihood of the link, the scientists told the first national conference of relatives of CJD victims that it was still impossible to predict how many people were likely to die. "We still have to say that there is a range from the odd 100 or so cases right through to tens of thousands," John Pattison, Professor of Medical Microbiology at University College London, said.

Dr Pattison, who heads the Government's advisory committee on CJD and BSE, said at Warwick University that the number of cases of the new strain of CJD arising in the next two or three years would be crucial.

On March 20 last year, Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, disclosed that ten cases of a variant of CJD with a distinctive brain pathology, had probably been caused by eating beef contaminated with BSE. Since then six more cases have been diagnosed.

Peter Smith, Professor of Tropical Epidemiology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, said: "It would be premature to assume that there would be no big epidemic of the new strain of CJD simply because no more than 16 cases had been confirmed so far."

The key uncertainty, Professor Smith said, was the length of the incubation period. If this varied widely between individuals, there could be a surge in the number of people developing the disease. "If the number of cases in each of the next three years is roughly constant, and less than about 20 a year, a final size of the epidemic may well be a few hundred cases or less.

"If there are 25 or more cases confirmed this year, with a doubling or tripling in each of the following two years, that would be compatible with ... an epidemic of many thousands of cases."

Exposure of the public to contaminated meat is thought to have occurred in the mid-1980s before safeguards were introduced, suggesting an incubation period of about ten years in those who have died from the new strain. It differs from the classical form of the disease in attacking people under 40.

The scientists said if a typical incubation period turned out to be no more than ten to 15 years, the total cases of the new disease would be relatively low. But it was possible that those who had died had a genetic susceptibility which caused the disease to develop more quickly.

Dr Pattison said: "It may be that the cases we have seen so far are a small group of people with a short incubation period, for reasons we do not understand, and that the peak of the disease will be seen in later years."

John Collinge, a specialist in molecular genetics at St Mary's Hospital Medical School in London, told the conference that the evidence for a link between BSE and new-variant CJD was "persuasive" and should be accepted as "a working hypothesis". No cure for CJD was in sight, Professor Collinge said. But some forms of treatment were worth exploring. The most hopeful was the use of drugs to influence the behaviour of the mutant prion protein thought to cause the disease. The disease appeared to be caused when this rogue protein attacked its healthy neighbours.

The conference was organised by the CJD Support Network, set up two years ago to help families of victims by the Alzheimer's Disease Society. Dot Churchill, whose son Stephen, 19, was the first victim of the new variant and who died in May 1995, said: "All the families want to see a full independent inquiry into the Government's handling of BSE."

PHOTOMONTAGE BY SUE FOLL/PAUL STUBBINGTON

How statues to Darwin, left, Brunel and Baird might look along The Mall. The site has not been decided

Scientists pick all-time Top 50

Monumental debate to choose the statues to British genius

By Alan Hamilton

ACADEMICS were considering a monumental challenge yesterday: who should inhabit an avenue of statues honouring British inventive genius?

Iain Sproat, National Heritage Minister, wants to recognise Britain's long history of science and engineering achievement to mark the millennium. The trouble is, there are so many candidates.

Sir Neil Cossons, director of the Science Museum, has agreed to chair a committee to draw up an initial list of 50. The site is undecided, but might be on the South Bank or at South Kensington, among the museums and colleges built on the proceeds of the 1851 Great Exhibition.

Mr Sproat, who hopes the scheme will be funded half by a National Lottery Millennium grant and half by private industry, said: "We have a proliferation of statues to actors, writers, soldiers, kings and queens, but the engineers, scientists and discoverers whose contribution has been equally great are seriously under-represented."

His own favoured candidates include the agrarian reformer Turnip Townsend, Sir Isaac Newton, James Watt and George Stephenson of the steam engine, Sir Frank Whittle of the jet engine, Sir Alexander Fleming of penicillin, Sir Christopher Cockerell of the hovercraft, the mathematician Alan Turing, Isambard Kingdom Brunel, John Logie Baird of television, and Barnes Wallis, of the bouncing bomb.

A straw poll of scientists by *The Times* yesterday indicated stong support for the inclusion of Charles Darwin, and of the Victorian mathematician James Clerk Maxwell, whose contribution to physics is regarded as being on a par with Newton and Einstein.

Archie Howie, professor of physics at Cambridge University, made an appeal for Lord Rutherford, splitter of the atom, J.J. Thomson, discoverer of electrons, and Michael Faraday, the pioneer of electricity.

Sir Arnold Wolfendale, professor of experimental physics at the Royal Institution and a former Astronomer Royal, nominated the astronomer Sir John Herschel, discoverer of the planet Uranus, and Sir Charles Parsons, the Newcastle engineer who invented the steam turbine.

Dr Miriam Rothschild, the eminent biologist, loyally nominated her father, Charles, who died in 1923: "He invented the whole concept of nature conservation."

Several scientists said that erecting statues to the dead was a waste of effort. They said the money would be put to better use providing scholarships to train the next generation of British genius.

Gene tests show killer flu came from pigs

By Nigel Hawkes
Science Editor

SCIENTISTS have confirmed that the flu virus which swept around the world in 1918, killing 20 million people, originated in pigs.

Samples taken from the lungs of a young soldier who died in the epidemic provided enough genetic material to prove the hypothesis, says a report in *Science*. The investigation, by a team at the US Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, was made more difficult by the way flu stores its gene information in the form of RNA (ribonucleic acid), not the more stable DNA.

Most flu viruses are believed to originate in birds, usually ducks. They are passed to pigs, which is why so many originate in China, where ducks and pigs are raised in close proximity.

The new investigation shows that the 1918 virus, a particularly virulent one, was completely novel. Hardest hit by it were young adults, usually the most resistant to flu infection. The American team is to continue examination of the RNA samples to try to find the cause.

John Oxford, of the London Hospital Medical College, has begun a similar examination. A Canadian team plans to dig up seven miners believed to have died of the 1918 flu, who are buried in frozen ground in Norway. They hope the bodies will be so well preserved that better samples can be obtained.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Diver wins £266,000 for accident

A diver was awarded £266,000 damages at the High Court yesterday for an accident which ended his career as an offshore worker in the North Sea. Philip Zammitt, 39, was left dangling helplessly in 85 metres of water for 40 minutes after developing cramp during a six-hour dive. He suffered a psychiatric injury and developed a fear of water.

Mr Justice Garland agreed that Stena Offshore allowed Mr Zammitt, of Southampton, to become so tired that he could not help himself. Mr Zammitt said afterwards that he owed his life to Stephen Mudge, another diver.

Ideal home

Arlington Court, near Barnstaple, North Devon, was voted best historic house in the National Heritage Awards sponsored by the pensions company NPI. The 1820s National Trust building is the former home of the Chichester family. The previous winner was Chatsworth, Derbyshire.

Crane boy hurt

A 14-year-old boy suffered leg injuries when he was run over by a mobile crane after he and five other teenagers broke into a Gloucester building site and drove the machine around. He suffered severe cuts and was taken to Frenchay Hospital, Bristol, where he was in satisfactory condition.

Rustlers strike

Rustlers have taken 40 continental cross-breed steers from the Government's agricultural research centre at Hillsborough, Co Down. They were put on a trailer during the night. A spokesman for the centre said the cattle were healthy and were being tested on a range of diets.

Lucknow sale

Two medals awarded to Lieutenant-Colonel George Biddulph, whose death at the second relief of Lucknow in 1857 was avenged within an hour by the killing of 1,500 Indians, fetched £1,325 at a Phillips auction in London.

Spiked food

Tinned food for hedgehogs, designed to supplement their diet of worms, slugs and beetles through the summer, is being sold at Safeway stores. The cans of Spikes Dinner contain crushed chicken carcass and include advice on feeding the animals.

CORRECTION

The European Communities (Amendment) Bill was sponsored by Lord Pearson of Rannoch and not, as reported on March 19, by Lord Taverne, who led the opposition to the Bill.

No sweat, a little poison can be good

MEDICAL BRIEFING

TOXINS in botulism may soon be used to dry the hands, feet and armpits of the perpetually anxious and sweaty.

Botulism poisoning may develop from four hours to eight days after taking food contaminated with the organism. Practically any sort of food is liable to contamination, but badly tinned vegetables, meat and fish are often the culprits. Victims develop double vision, drooping eyelids and a dry mouth, soon followed by difficulty in speaking and swallowing and eventually by a paralysis that includes muscles involved in breathing.

Over the past few years, preparations of botulinum toxin have been used for injection so as to deliberately paralyse muscles, such as around the neck and eyes, that have gone into spasm suffered involuntary movements. It is also used in cosmetic medicine to treat those whose brows are unnecessarily furrowed.

When used to control sweating, injections are given into the skin 2.5cms apart. *The Lancet* recently reported the case of a young woman whose dripping hands prevented her from working. Within 24 hours of the injection, the skin around the site had stopped sweating. Within a week, the whole palm was dry. She suffered no recurrence in the next 3½ months, but it is not known how long the effect will last. Another medical journal, *Medical Monitor*, has reviewed similar treatment of excessively sweaty armpits.

Patients with palm injections may develop a minimal muscle weakness in the hands. Doctors are warned that injections must not be given at the same time as certain antibiotics, and that anaphylactic reactions — extreme allergies producing collapse — have been recorded.

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

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Officers under fire for tolerating racism in Services

By Michael Evans, defence correspondent

THE Royal Navy has been accused of tolerating racism and not being entitled to call itself an equal opportunities employer. Efforts to recruit more personnel from the ethnic minorities were denigrated as "political correctness".

In a survey of the Armed Services and civil servants working for the Ministry of Defence, white sailors commonly admitted that they did not think black people were suitable for the Royal Navy. It was claimed that "they" did not like water, could not fight, and lacked educational qualifications. In the Army, black people were said to be "lazy" while Asians were considered "sly".

Some white naval officers made remarks such as: "Where would you pray to Mecca on a submarine?"

The survey, commissioned by the MoD from the Office for Public Management, a private consultancy, found evidence of racism in all three services. Helen Brown, one of the authors of the report, said that the MoD was "among the worst ministries" for attitudes on race relations, although she acknowledged that, since the report had been completed last September, the ministry had taken steps to enforce equal opportunity policies.

However, Dr Brown said that the MoD had "a long way to go to catch up with the 1990s". One of the problems, the report said, was that senior officers in the services did not accept that racism existed, so they did not feel the need to tell those under their command not to make racist remarks.

"We find it disappointing that there is still relatively little acknowledgement of the pervasive, long-running and deeply entrenched problem of racism within the Armed Services," the report said.

A senior official in the Ministry of Defence said that the report had raised serious issues and admitted that changes could not be introduced "overnight". The three Service chiefs, the Chief of the Defence Staff and the Permanent Under-Secretary at the ministry were all, he said, committed to ensuring that racist attitudes were "stamped on".

> ‘RAF had an unwritten rule of ‘no blacks, Pakis, spots or specs’ on VIP parades’

The investigators found that, in the RAF, the unwritten rule for parades or guards of honour assembled to meet VIPs was "no blacks, Pakis, spots or specs".

Army officers interviewed by the survey team admitted that the typical officer was seen as white, male and middle class. The report said: "Racially offensive language, behaviour and attitudes remain a significant feature of life in the Army." Calling people racist names such as "Snowy" and "Moonlight" was dismissed as "robust humour".

Many white soldiers were "openly resistant, if not hostile, to the prospect of a significantly larger presence of people from black minority communities within the Army". The latest figures showed that only 1.5 per cent of nearly 75,300 army personnel identified themselves as black or Asian. The most senior recorded black officer held the rank of lieutenant-colonel.

The report's section on the Navy was the most scathing. Although the Navy had an "excellent" statement of equal opportunities in its recruitment literature, it was "not matched by day-to-day understanding or practice". The report said: "We believe on the basis of the evidence available to us through this short study that the Royal Navy is not justified in describing itself as an equal opportunities employer under the terms of the Race Relations Act."

It added: "The conventions of a seafaring tradition result in a level of awareness of cultural diversity which is ten or 20 years behind that of society at large, and which can reasonably be said to constitute institutional racism."

The survey team discovered a "huge complacency" about race questions which was underpinned by "anxiety that the comfortable lifestyle of the white majority could be threatened if race issues were given more prominence".

Major writes to officer's widow

THE Prime Minister has written to the widow of an army major killed in a grenade accident in Oman (Michael Evans writes). She had waited three years for the Ministry of Defence to respond to her pleas for compensation and details of how he died.

The case of Deborah Swift's struggle to find out how her husband, Tony, was killed in 1994 while on loan service to the Omani Army as a weapons expert was highlighted in *The Times* yesterday.

Mrs Swift, 38, said that she had suddenly received letters from John Major and Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, offering to help. Mr Major told her the MoD had agreed to handle any claim for compensation and that ministry officials would be making contact with her solicitors "as a matter of urgency". Major Swift was killed at the age of 40 when the rifle-launched grenade he was testing exploded prematurely in June 1994. An Omani inquiry said it must have been a faulty grenade, but the evidence had been destroyed in the explosion.

Mrs Swift, of Fleet, Hampshire, said: "It makes me angry that only now have I had a proper response."

Bruno Walter and Kathleen Ferrier at the first festival in 1947; many international stars have followed

Edinburgh Festival revives its greatest hits for 50th birthday

By Shirley English

THE Edinburgh Festival celebrates its fiftieth birthday this year with a look back at some of the classic performances from its history.

The organisers aim to recreate early hits using a new generation of artists this summer. Brian McMaster, the festival director, announced the programme yesterday and promised that the event would be "a real humdinger". There will be four world premieres among 100 productions running from August 10 to 30.

The festival, claimed to be the world's largest cultural event, has over the years attracted performers including Joan Sutherland, Margot Fonteyn, Marlene Dietrich, Luciano Pavarotti, Peter Cook and Dudley Moore.

Recreated highlights will include Verdi's *Macbeth*, which was the first opera performed at the festival in 1947. Then the Glyndebourne Festival Opera brought the house down. This year the Royal Opera will present the original and rarely performed 1847 version.

T.S. Eliot's *The Cocktail Party*, which was premièred at the 1949 festival in the poet's presence, with a cast including Alec Guinness and Irene Worth, will return to the stage with the Royal Lyceum Theatre Company.

Some momentous events, however, will not be reprised, such as an avant-garde "happening" in 1963 where the appearance of a nude on stage so shocked Edinburgh sensibilities that producer and model were prosecuted for indecency. They were defended successfully by the late Nicholas Fairbairn.

Apart from retrospective events, the programme includes a celebration of Gaelic culture, performances by an Aboriginal dance group and a "monumental" Salzburg Festival production of Chekhov's *The Cherry Orchard*, directed by Peter Stein.

In the spirit of past festivals, attempts have been made to keep ticket prices low to enable people to see as much as possible. But while most productions start at £5, for the first time the top ticket price has risen to £50.

Mr McMaster, who took the helm at the festival in 1992, said he believed the ideals behind the event in 1947 were still present. Then, Sir John Falconer, the Lord Provost of Edinburgh, wrote in the programme foreword that the festival was "not a commercial undertaking in any way" but rather an endeavour to provide a stimulus to the establishing of a new way of life based on the arts. "Edinburgh hopes that visitors will refresh their souls and reaffirm their belief in things other than material," he wrote.

Last year saw record audiences and box office income of more than £2 million, as well as record sponsorship. As a result the year's projected £125,000 deficit was just £48,000. But Mr McMaster said: "Year on year we have taken huge gambles and so far we have been lucky."

In 1947 the festival budget was £130,000, the equivalent of £2.6 million in today's terms, which paid for 55 productions. The castle was floodlit for four days despite the fuel restrictions of the postwar era. In 1997 about £5.8 million will be spent.

Mr McMaster said his first visit to the festival in 1963 had been a seminal event. He wanted others to be similarly affected. "I believe that art can change people's lives. That sounds silly and pretentious, but I think the arts can touch people, make them live better lives and expand their emotional reactions."

The premiere of *The Cocktail Party* in 1949

Stonehenge tour train backed by English Heritage

By David Lovibond and Robin Young

A TOURIST development for Stonehenge has been approved by government archaeology advisers, despite criticism from conservationists.

English Heritage has accepted the idea of a trackless land-train to tour the stones from a visitor centre. The proposal came from the Tussauds Group, which won the bid to build the new centre on the fringes of the World Heritage site.

Sir Jocelyn Stevens, the English Heritage chairman, said: "We would not do anything to destroy archaeology. The point is to save Stonehenge. At the moment, one million people are driving to within 300 yards of the stones. We will be trying to get them there in a way that is environmentally friendly."

An English Heritage report on the proposals acknowledges that some monuments would be damaged by the necessary works and that at least some of the route would be visible from Stonehenge. However, most of the two-mile route would follow existing trackways, and the land-train of linked carriages would not need rails.

The plan was criticised by Kate Fielden, secretary of Avebury Society, whose remit extends to Stonehenge. She said: "The established aim is to return the monument to its landscape and the emphasis is on removing extraneous features. It is simply not on to have a Disneyland railway in a World Heritage site."

The Wiltshire county archaeologist, Roy Canham, said that an original proposal for a short ride from the visitor centre to King Barrow would have allowed visitors "to slow to the pace of the landscape — including VDUs in the trains, as they do, they will offer a plastic experience."

The Tussaud project has been given agreement in principle by the National Trust, which owns most of the land. If the Millennium Commission also approves, English Heritage expects the first trains to run in 2000.

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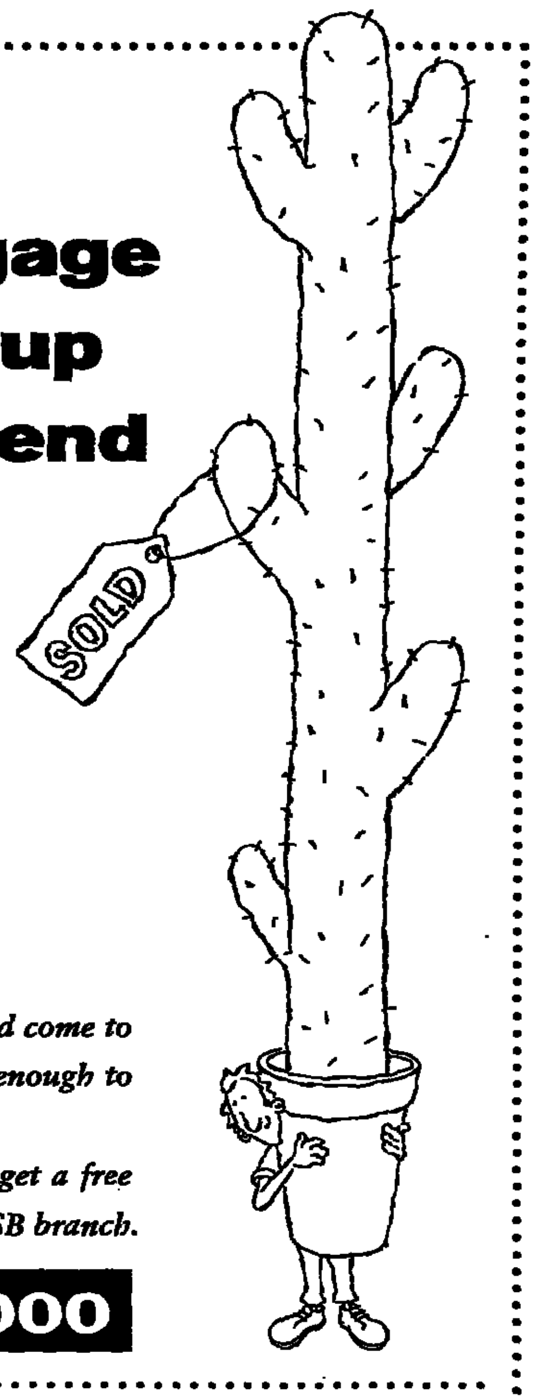

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ITV regulator is likely to approve Blair-Major clash

By Jill Sherman, Chief Political Correspondent

THE Independent Television Commission has suggested that it would approve a televised debate between John Major and Tony Blair, excluding Paddy Ashdown.

Senior sources from the regulator of independent television said that the latest proposals from ITV, under which the Liberal Democrat leader would be questioned separately, appeared to comply with its code on impartiality. The code requires broadcasters to show balance throughout the general election campaign, but this would not have to apply to every programme.

Yesterday the Liberal Democrats repeated their threat to take legal action if Mr Ashdown was not involved in a three-way debate. Lord Holme, who is leading the Liberal Democrat negotiating team, accused the Tories of deliberately trying to bounce the other parties into an agreement. He claimed that opinion polls had shown that 75 per cent of the public wanted to see the Liberal Democrats involved.

"The Tory party, in its arrogance, is trying to bounce the agenda. I think it is disgraceful. We shall certainly resist it."

It would be more difficult, however, for a judge to find in favour of the Liberal Democrats if the commission had raised no objection.

Under the latest plan, which appears to be favoured by both the Tories and Labour over a second proposal from the BBC, Mr Ashdown would be interviewed but would not debate with Mr Major and Mr Blair.

All three leaders would make short opening statements and each leader would be asked one question. Then the Prime Minister would debate with Mr Blair for about 25 minutes, with Jonathan Dimbleby in the chair.

Mr Ashdown would then face questioning on his own, before another 30-minute slot when Mr Blair and Mr Major would be cross-questioned by a panel including Sue Lawley and Michael Brunson.

Under the BBC's plan, which the Prime Minister thinks is too rigid, he and Mr Blair would face questions from David Dimbleby. They would be asked six questions each and allowed two replies, each two minutes in length. Mr Ashdown would then be interviewed for 16 minutes, then there would be statements from all three party leaders.

Last night Labour said that it was prepared to negotiate with both channels. The party stipulated only that the format be legal and that there be an audience. Although Labour has argued that Mr Ashdown should be involved it is not pressing for his inclusion in a debate.

Derry Irvine, Shadow Lord Chancellor, is the head of Labour's negotiating team. Michael Dobbs, a former vice-chairman of the Tory party, is leading John Major's team.

Mr Major is still pressing for two or three head-to-head debates on the Sundays during the general election campaign.

The continuing dispute over the televised debate coincided with a new report claiming that such programmes had little impact on election results. A paper, published by the Hansard Society, says that audience participation should be included in any debate broadcast during the general election.

The document, by Dr Stephen Coleman, an academic student of elections, also argues that no party leader "who can reasonably expect to win enough votes to become prime minister should be excluded from participating."

Dr Coleman's report proposes a debate involving all three main party leaders and separate debates for Scotland and Wales. Under his proposed plan all three leaders would be able to cross question each other.

John Swinney, SNP Treasury spokesman, outlining a "budget for Scotland" yesterday

SNP promises lower taxes

By Shirley English

THE Scottish National Party yesterday promised tax cuts for low earners and promised to restore student grants and state benefits for 16 and 17-year-olds when it published its *budget for an independent* Scotland.

The 30-page document gave details of Scotland's spending over four years of independence, with annual expenditure reaching £2 billion in the fourth year. The low rate tax would be cut from 20p to 15p, but higher earners would be hit by the abolition of the ceiling on national insurance contributions.

To compensate middle earners, the level of income taxed at basic rate would be expanded by 15 per cent. The SNP would also cut VAT on fuel to 5 per cent and raise tobacco duty by 15 per cent and reduce spirit duties by 10 per cent. Pensions would rise by five per cent.

John Swinney, the party's Treasury spokesman, said: "It is our aim in this election to switch the focus of economic debate in Scotland away from how we fare as a regional outpost of the UK, and towards what we can achieve as an independent nation."

An Edinburgh-based whisky company announced yesterday that it was dropping the SNP logo from the labels of its "Independence" blend because they were unpopular with hoteliers and public houses.

Spin doctors silence the big man — for now

JOHN PRESCOTT is a dream for television, loud, old Labour and larger than life; quite the opposite of the sanitised new Labour frontbenchers with their smooth ways and rehearsed words signifying nothing.

Yesterday, during Prime Minister's Questions, the old bruiser could clearly be seen back at his leader's side, prodding and pounding his disdain for John Major. But otherwise this week he has been strangely absent from our screens. Where has he been? And what can explain his unlikely silence?

The Tories plainly think he is a suitable target for derision. On Tuesday, in perhaps his last chance to creep to a Tory premier for some while, John Sykes, Tory MP for Scarborough, threw a soft ball to the PM, describing the Labour Cabinet-in-waiting as "a group of failed teachers, a bunch of ex-trade union officials, one television director and a bar steward".

John Major has always professed his distaste for snobbery as perhaps befits a man whose childhood was spent among garden gnomes, then in rented rooms in Brixton, but he grinned smugly at the sneer. "Who is meant by the bar steward I cannot imagine."

The TV camera scanned the Labour front bench, but the man in question — Deputy Leader of the Labour Party, graduate of Ruskin College, Oxford, and merchant marine bar steward, late of the good ship *Franconia* — was missing. As the Labour press conference televised that morning revealed, John Prescott was in Falmouth, of all places, briefly beamed in live on a giant screen like Stuart Hall on *It's a Knockout*, surrounded by happy campers cheering on the People's Party.

During the six long weeks of campaigning, Prescott will be far from the centre, touring the country in his own personalised charabanc, the Prescott Express, covering 10,000 miles in pursuit of the votes which Tony Blair cannot reach.

Mark Mardell of *Newsnight*, who caught up with him on Wednesday somewhere in South Wales, reported that he had asked an unnamed "Labour strategist" what Prescott's role would be and he received the reply: "I don't really care as long as he is as far away from London as possible." Mardell then went on to remind us of Prescott's 1992 gaffe, still pertinent today, in which he confessed that a minimum wage would cause a loss of jobs.

Mardell asked Prescott whether he minded being kept from the action. The big man beamed. "Do you think anyone can shove me out of the centre? You must be joking!" But his laugh was hollow. Already his role in a Labour government is unclear. His hope to be a new George Brown, with a department of economic affairs to rival Gordon Brown's Treasury, has been stamped upon.

He sat in the back of his bus and dreamt about life after May 1. "Then I hope I will have played my part in the key strategy area which I have been two years developing and brought to fruition. Then there will be a Labour government and Tony Blair will be Prime Minister and him and I will have a chat."

Although some like to compare Prescott to Ernie

TV WATCH

NICHOLAS WAPSHOTT

Bevin, Attlee's dynamic working class Foreign Secretary, he is more like George Brown, Wilson's erratic deputy. In Maurice Saatchi's recent Tory horror TV broadcast which predicted the headlines under a wayward Labour government, Prescott was painted as a loose cannon — always threatening resignation and stomping off in protest at slights real and imagined.

It is unlikely we will be seeing much of John Prescott in the next six weeks, he has been marginalised. Overloaded with unglamorous campaigning in unlikely places, Prescott's gaffes, if there are any, will not be caught on camera.

But you can't silence Prescott for ever. If Labour win, the man in the iron mask will deserve more than a big office and a big ministerial car, he will need a big job to go with them. Just what job may be the first big test of Tony Blair's first day in Downing Street. And whatever it is, there will be no keeping him off our screens.

Chalker to quit world aid post

By Polly Newton

BARONESS CHALKER will retire as Minister for Overseas Development after the election, it was announced yesterday. Lady Chalker, who as Lynda Chalker was MP for Wallasey for 18 years until she lost the seat to Labour in 1992, will leave the Conservative front bench in the House of Lords whatever the result of the election.

She said in her resignation letter to the Prime Minister: "As you know, I am deeply committed to continuing development work in Africa and now feel that I should do this independently."

John Major replied that she had brought to her job "a particularly effective combination of dedication, hard-headed analysis and genuine compassion. You have become not only a figure of world stature but also a close friend and trusted adviser of many international leaders."

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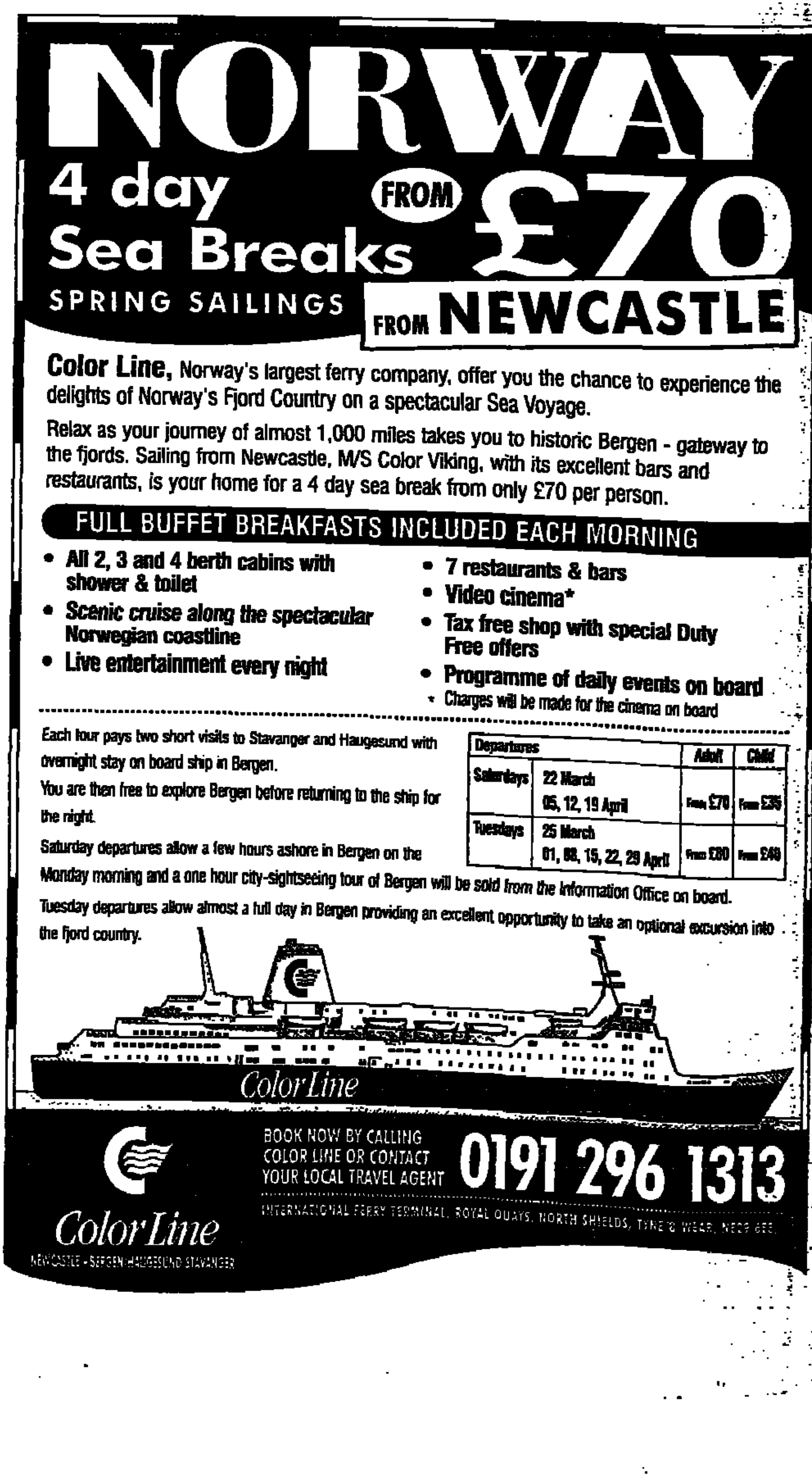

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Committee of MPs could lose the right to vet reports before they are published

Nolan will seek new powers for standards chief

By Valerie Elliott and Arthur Leathley

LORD NOLAN, chairman of the Committee on Standrds in Public Life, is to call for Sir Gordon Downey to be allowed to publish all his reports on the conduct of MPs without having them vetted first by a Commons committee.

He will call for the change when he reviews the working of the Standards Commissioner and the Commons Standards and Privileges Committee this summer. There is concern among members of the Nolan committee, which originally proposed the creation of a Standards Commissioner, that if Sir Gordon is not given these extra powers the public will not be satisfied that Parliament can police itself. At present, the Standards and Privileges Committee generally considers his contentious reports before publication.

The Nolan committee wants Sir Gordon to be able to publish reports in the same way as parliamentary officers such as the Comptroller and Auditor General, Sir John Bourn, and the Ombudsman, Michael Buckley. It is believed that, had Sir Gordon been granted the new power, the prorogation of Parliament need not have delayed publication of his report on the cash-for-questions affair. Parliamentary reports are sometimes published when the House is not sitting.

However, MPs will fiercely resist any proposals that give greater powers to an unelected official, at the expense of a committee of MPs.

Labour is committed to strengthening the Committee on Standards in Public Life, if it is elected to power. Senior figures recognise that the party wil be under pressure to tighten the disciplinary powers of Sir Gordon. Derek Foster, the Shadow Public Services Minister, said last night: "If public confidence is to be restored, the Government of the day must ensure that Parliament keeps its House in order." However, the party is reluctant to cede the centuries-old power of MPs to investigate fellow members.

Lord Nolan also believes that Sir Gordon's work could be more completed more quickly if he reported to a subcommittee of MPs than to the full Select Committee on Standards and Privileges.

In the Nolan committee's first report, suggesting the appointment of a Standards Commissioner, they stated: "The Commissioner should have the same ability to make findings and conclusions public as is enjoyed by the Comptroller and Auditor General and the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration."

Peter Shore, a member of the Nolan committee who is retiring from the Commons after 33 years as a Labour MP, said: "People are dissatisfied with the way Parliament has looked after itself. We need to look at it all again in the light of the current situation which is far from satisfactory."

Nigel Jones, a Liberal Democrat member of the Standards and Privileges Committee, has already pressed for an independent system of investigation. However, Quentin Davies, a Tory member of the privileges committee, said that MPs had been "rigorous in observing the rules of natural justice." Removing powers from MPs would be "constitutionally obnoxious [and] damaging to the Commons."

Philip Howard, page 20
Leading article, page 21

EXONERATED

The interim report by the Commons Standards and Privileges Committee exonerates 15 of the 25 MPs accused of wrongdoing:

Tory: Michael Portillo, Sir John Wheeler, John Bowis, David Mellor, Robert Atkins, Sir Gerard Vaughan, Sir Graham Bright, Sir Anthony Durant, Sir Malcolm Thornton, David Shaw and Vivian Bendall.

Labour: Chris Smith, Doug Hoyle, Gwyneth Dunwoody

Liberal Democrat: Alan Beith.

Payments from Greer were not all declared

By Andrew Pierce

THE lobbyist Ian Greer paid thousands of pounds to Sir Michael Grylls, the senior Tory MP at the centre of the cash for questions controversy, on behalf of a group of businessmen who knew nothing about the financial arrangement.

The payments formed a key part of Sir Gordon Downey's report into the long-running sleaze investigation.

Mr Greer made the payments to Sir Michael for his role as an adviser to the unitary tax campaign, which employed the lobbyist. The payments were not all declared by Sir Michael in the register of MPs interests.

The "top-up" fees were in addition to Sir Michael's payment of up to £10,000 a year from the campaign, which he registered. The disputed payments were in 1988-89.

Sir Michael was a leading adviser to the campaign, which was set up by some of the biggest blue chip companies in Britain. The campaign recruited Mr Greer to lobby against the system in some American states, which meant higher tax bills for subsidiaries of British firms.

Sir Michael, who is retiring at the election, said: "I spent a lot of time on the campaign. here was a limit to the amount they could pay. Ian's firm said you are doing extra work and agreed supplementary payments. I have made this clear to Sir Gordon Downey."

Tim Smith, MP for Beaconsfield, Neil Hamilton, MP for Tatton, Norman Lamont, MP for Kingston upon Thames, Michael Brown, MP for Cleethorpes, Nirj Deva, MP for Brentford and Isleworth, Sir Andrew Bowden, MP for Brighton Kemptown, Gerry Malone, MP for Winchester, and Sir Michael Grylls, MP for Surrey North West

Constituency activists support named Tories

By Damian Whitworth and Carol Midgley

IN THE constituencies of the Conservative MPs who are understood to have been examined by Sir Gordon Downey but have yet to be exonerated, party members swung into line behind their candidates yesterday. But the first murmurs of discontent were already being heard in some quarters last night.

Neil Hamilton received the full backing of his local party chairman despite the controversy that has surrounded him. Alan Barnes, constituency chairman for Tatton, in Cheshire, rejected reports of a plot to deselect Mr Hamilton at the AGM today prior to the full publication of the report. "I remain totally confident that Mr Hamilton will be cleared by the committee and he will continue to receive maximum support from the Tatton Association," he said.

In Harrogate the constituency chairman Paul Meyrick refused to comment on how party members felt that the candidate, Norman Lamont, who might be criticised in the final report. Mr Lamont was allegedly given money to aid his 1987 election campaign in Kingston upon Thames. One party member, who had voted to choose Mr Lamont as the candidate, said questions were bound to be raised.

Michael Brown may face a rough reception in his Cleethorpes constituency where a swing of just 3.5 per cent would see Labour take the seat. Peter Mills, one of just two Tory district councillors, warned Mr Brown to have a "plausible explanation" ready before he started canvassing the town's voters.

Deirdre Holloway, chairman of the Beaconsfield Conservative Association, said publication of the incomplete committee report changed nothing and members were fully behind Tim Smith. "As far as we are concerned, what is going on to try to smear his name is against the interests of natural justice," she said.

Pat Smith, the agent in Sir Andrew Bowden's Brighton Kemptown constituency, said: "The only adverse reaction there has been in this town about the allegations involving Sir Andrew has been orchestrated by the Labour Party. Our supporters and members are totally behind him."

The agent for the Brentford and Isleworth constituency of Nirj Deva said the local party was unconcerned that Mr Deva had yet to be exonerated by the report as they were convinced of Mr Deva's innocence of receiving irregular payments back in 1987 when he was fighting the seat of Hammersmith. "It is a matter for Hammersmith not Mr Deva," said the agent Jim O'Farrell.

No one at the party headquarters in the Winchester constituency of the health minister Gerald Malone or the constituency office of retiring Surrey North West MP Sir Michael Grylls was available to comment on allegations against the MPs. Two other MPs who have not been cleared have yet to be identified.

Sour outburst sums up years of frustration

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

The 1992-97 Parliament yesterday ended on a characteristically sour and bad-tempered note. John Major's outburst in the Commons revealed all his pent-up dislike of Tony Blair. This epitomised his frustrations throughout the Parliament about what he regards as his unfair treatment by the Opposition, the media and his colleagues. It has been a fractious and unsettled five years, both for the Government and for Parliament, in part because the 1992 election resolved so little.

Mr Major was given the benefit of the doubt in 1992 and his administration has subsequently achieved more than is commonly recognised. But it never really recovered momentum, or authority in the Commons, after Black Wednesday in 1992. The Tory party has been divided with a sullen minority never coming to terms with his leadership.

The Labour opposition has also been preoccupied with events outside the Commons — notably following Mr Blair's election as leader and his attempt to "reinvent" the party. All his main initiatives and Gordon Brown's big economic speeches have been outside the Commons. The Opposition has won a few important victories in the House, notably over VAT on domestic fuel, but that depended on support from Tory Eurosceptics. Otherwise, Labour's main efforts have been aimed at voters, not MPs.

It was apt that the bitter exchanges at the final Prime Minister's exchanges of the parliament were about sleaze, that vague charge that has dogged the Tories for the past three years. A recurrent theme of this parliament has been MPs' uncertainty over their role and resentment at criticism of their standards.

Many Tory MPs, including quite a few ministers, regret that the Nolan committee was ever set up. But they fail to realise that the Commons had, and still has, to demonstrate it is capable of handling alleged abuses (isolated though I believe they are). That is why the stalemate over the "cash for questions" allegations is so unsatisfactory.

Of course, it was bound to provoke a furious row and it has, incidentally, disrupted the start of the Tories' campaign and distracted attention from the good unemployment and inflation figures. No wonder Mr Major is so keen to see the back of Parliament.

Nonetheless, as the Opposition has argued, the Government could easily have put off prorogation until after Easter, though, as ministers claimed, there might not have been enough time for the unresolved allegations to be properly discussed and the affected MPs to put their case. The result is a mess which is unfair to the MPs, further damages the standing of Parliament and underlines the case for a review of self-regulation by the Nolan committee.

The current parliament will, however, be remembered for an important shift in our political culture towards a rules-based system. This was first seen with the publication of *Questions of Procedure for Ministers* and was followed with the adoption of a new civil service code and the post-Nolan rules for MPs. Just after 2am yesterday this work was rounded off when the Commons approved a resolution on ministerial accountability to Parliament.

This sets out a new yardstick about how ministers should behave, stating that "it is of paramount importance that ministers give accurate and truthful information to Parliament, correcting any inadvertent error at the earliest opportunity. Ministers who knowingly mislead Parliament will be expected to offer their resignation to the Prime Minister". That resolution may still matter when yesterday's bitter ending to an unlamented Parliament is long forgotten.

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Midlands police criticised for poor clear-up record

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Correspondent

WEST Midlands Police has one of the worst crime-fighting records in the country, according to a Home Office report published yesterday.

Officers in the force, one of the biggest in Britain, were accused by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Constabulary of relying too heavily on confessions by convicted prisoners rather than proper detections. Police also under-recorded or failed to record some crimes, something which may have made the force's crime figures seem better than was really the case.

In January, the Audit Commission said that West Midlands Police had performed poorly, despite extra manpower and money. West Midlands was bottom of the league of 43 provincial forces for solving burglaries, violence and for crimes solved per officer.

The force has also come under scrutiny over its role in the Bridgewater case, in which three men were freed last month by the Court of Appeal after serving 18 years for murder.

Yesterday's report is one of the most critical issued by the inspectors for a force in recent years.

An inspection team led by John Stevens, former Chief Constable of Northumbria, found that the force cleared up only 12.5 per cent of crime by detection. The clear-up rate for domestic burglaries was even lower at 8 per cent.

Of all the crime cleared up, 45 per cent was accounted for by confessions made by prisoners during visits, something that the report strongly criticised. The report found that the percentage of crime cleared up by West Midlands Police using prison visits was twice the average for provincial forces.

Visits give the prisoners a chance to admit crimes which can be used to help their case before parole boards. They are normally not prosecuted for the offences they admit. In recent years, forces have been told to tighten up the procedure after allegations of corruption.

In the report the inspection team raised questions about whether the prison visits by West Midlands officers were being properly monitored and recorded.

Stevens: led inspection team in West Midlands

The inspectors urged Ted Crew, the new Chief Constable, to take action to stop his 7,100-strong force relying on confessions.

The inspectors also queried the recording of crimes and pointed to "anomalies" after taking a sample of what is included in crime records. They found that the cost of criminal damage in some cases had been underestimated, which meant they fell below Home Office guidelines for inclusion in official statistics. Other crimes were recorded as minor offences when they were more serious.

The inspectors believe the that problem lay with sloppy controls, rather than a deliberate attempt to misrepresent the force's performance, but the report said that the inaccuracies could affect the overall picture of crime.

Yesterday, Mr Crew, who took over as West Midlands Chief Constable last summer, said in a statement that the report recognised the force was in transition and many of the recommendations were now part of the force's strategy for the next year. They had already been identified by the time of the inspection last autumn and the strategy would aim to improve the force's performance.

Mr Crew said that Her Majesty's Inspectorate had "recognised the painful process the force is undergoing as it focuses its attention on improving its performance" and had also praised some of the force's work.

George Gamble and one of his birds. The rediscovered Percy will stay in China

Percy takes a slow boat

PERCY the pigeon, which disappeared during a race five years ago, has turned up in China (Paul Wilkinson writes). The bird vanished on a flight from Folkestone to its loft on George Gamble's allotment at Billingham, Teesside. Mr Gamble, 50, assumed it had fallen prey to a hawk or had had an accident.

But this week the North of England Homing Union received a fax from a fancier in Shanghai, where pigeon racing is a big sport. The bird had landed exhausted on a North Sea oil rig and was passed to a Chinese sailor, who took it home. Mr Gamble said: "I won't be asking for him back. Transport is a bit too expensive."

Sex convicts' pin-ups alarm jail inspector

By Richard Ford
Home Correspondent

PRISON staff need national guidelines on dealing with sex offenders who put up pictures of children and naked women in their cells, the Chief Inspector of Prisons says today.

Sir David Ramsbotham says it is not simply a question of banning the pictures. They illustrate behaviour that should be taken into account when assessing the risk that the men pose. "Sex offenders who have possible sexual fantasy material in their possession should be confronted and monitored," he says.

He and his inspectors had been concerned to see such pictures on noticeboards and walls in sex offenders' cells at Albany jail on the Isle of Wight. "Staff at Albany were more aware than many about the link betweeen sexual fantasy material and offending, and many of them wanted clearer guidelines."

He praises the treatment programme for sex offenders and the staff running it at Albany, where 183 of the 425 prisoners were serving sentences for sex crimes when he visited it last June. Half those who completed treatment had a reduced arousal to deviant material.

Stephen Moore, governor of the jail since December, said the report was generally positive and acknowledged "the good work staff have been doing in creating a purposeful regime and tackling offending behaviour".

In a second report, Sir David condemns Wormwood Scrubs in west London, where a huge rebuilding programme and pressure of numbers meant the "prison has become mainly a warehouse". Most of the 1,027 inmates were locked up all day.

Richard Tilt, Director-General of the Prison Service, said that he shared Sir David's concern. A new management team had been appointed and he was confident the jail would regain its position as the service's flagship.

Eating more carrots has visible benefits

By Robin Young

SHOPPERS should be filling their baskets with carrots, according to researchers from the Institute of Food Research in Norwich.

Their work suggests that increasing the body's intake of beta carotene by four carrots a day would significantly enhance the immune system's ability to spot cancerous changes quickly. An increased intake of carotenoids may also delay, or possibly prevent, the development of cataracts. Carotenoids are also found in other fresh vegetables and fruit and in wholemeal cereals.

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Marks & Spencer: NZ lamb leg knuckle £5.29 kg, chicken breast fillets £7.99 for ten, reduced fat hot cross buns 49p for four.

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Nato expansion at uneasy heart of US-Russia talks

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN HELSINKI

PRESIDENT CLINTON and President Yeltsin met for talks last night in Helsinki, in what both sides predicted would be the toughest Russian-American encounter since the end of the Cold War.

With relations under heavy strain because of Moscow's objections to Nato's enlargement plans, the two leaders met at a dinner in the Finnish presidential palace for the ceremonial part of their two-day meeting.

Ahead of the main working session, which will take place today at the Finnish President's seaside residence, both sides kept up the pre-negotiating rhetoric, with the Russians sounding an optimistic note, while the Americans tried to play down any expectations of a breakthrough.

"President Clinton and I face difficult and serious talks," Mr Yeltsin said soon after arriving in Helsinki. "I think that Bill Clinton and his team are looking for a compromise to all controversial questions, so that we can depart once again as friends."

Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, sounded a different note, saying that the two men may use their meetings simply to "renew a good working relationship". She added: "I do not think that there are specific things that one should look for as benchmarks. I think that this is a summit that is kind of reviewing business ... not one where there is going to be specific things."

Even the arrival of the two leaders was starkly different. Mr Yeltsin, whose presence here was in doubt only a month ago because of pneumonia, looked the picture of health as he stepped confidently from his newly refurbished jet for his first foreign trip in nearly a year.

Clinton: arrival in invalid style after knee injury

Mr Clinton, by contrast, because of his recent knee injury, was lowered from Air Force One on a Finnair catering truck and then driven to a hotel in the Finnish capital in an ambulance.

The difference in their approach to the summit can be attributed largely to each country's pre-negotiating tactics. Both sides know very well that the plan to extend Nato membership to at least three of the former Soviet Bloc nations will go ahead at the Madrid summit in July.

The Russians, who regard the move as a direct threat to their security and a blow to their national prestige, want to squeeze as many concessions as they can from the American negotiators.

To offset the Kremlin's displeasure, the Americans have come prepared with a number of initiatives, on Moscow's future role in European security, arms control and economic assistance for Russia's troubled economy.

In particular, Mr Clinton is expected to offer Mr Yeltsin a "charter" that would formalise Nato's relationship with Russia and grant Moscow a say in Nato policy. The Russians want assurances that no Nato nuclear weapons or forces will be stationed in new member countries. There is also scope for fresh cuts in strategic arms.

Mr Clinton, who has praised the new Russian Cabinet, which is dominated by young reformers, is also expected to offer Moscow economic incentives in the form of loan guarantees to help to stimulate the Russian economy and a permanent seat at the G7 group of leading industrialised countries.

While this package of inducements may sweeten the Nato pill, the Americans are aware that ultimately there is little they can do to placate Mr Yeltsin, who will never accept the alliance's expansion plans. However good the relationship between the two men, they must agreed to disagree.

Tomorrow Mr Yeltsin must return back to Moscow to face what will almost certainly be a hostile reception from opposition Communist and nationalist leaders, who had written off the summit even before it started. Viktor Ilyukhin, Communist head of the Russian parliamentary security committee, said yesterday that there was no point in talking to America and that Moscow's only alternative was to take "counter-measures".

He said: "Nothing constructive will come of this summit precisely because Nato's expansion is a foregone conclusion and Russia is powerless there."

ULLI MICHEL / REUTER

President Yeltsin greets onlookers as he is welcomed in Helsinki for the summit

Drastic cuts in nuclear arms back on agenda

FROM MICHAEL BINYON IN HELSINKI

PRESIDENT Clinton will today urge President Yeltsin to make huge new cuts in Russia's nuclear arsenal, scrapping thousands of warheads so that America and Russia eventually have only about 2,000 nuclear weapons each.

Arms control, a central feature of East-West summits during the Cold War, is back on the agenda in Helsinki. President Clinton said before arriving here that he would discuss guidelines for a Start (strategic arms reduction treaty) 3 agreement with Moscow to continue the reductions agreed in earlier Start accords. They envisage cutting nuclear stockpiles by two thirds from the total at the Cold War's height.

America's proposals are based on a Nuclear Posture Review by the Pentagon three years ago, which concluded that nuclear weapons played a smaller part in American security than at any time in the nuclear age and that the country should concentrate on anti-missile defences to counter nuclear proliferation by rogue states. It recognised that another stage of negotiated arms control with Moscow would need to follow Start 2, and recommended reductions in non-strategic forces not covered by the treaty.

At present Russia still has between 10,000 and 15,000 nuclear weapons, almost ten times as many as America. The Pentagon review said this was more than Russia needed for defence and more than it could keep under control during political turbulence.

So far, only the main provisions of the first Start agreement have been largely enacted. Three former Soviet republics — Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine — are now nuclear-free. America has spent almost $2 billion in helping Russia to scrap nuclear warheads, and joint programmes are going ahead to prevent the theft of weapons and fissile material in Russia.

Start 2, which makes further deep cuts in nuclear arsenals to about 3,000-3,500 on each side, has not come into force, however, having run into strong opposition in the Russian parliament, which believes it strongly disadvantages Russia and is refusing to ratify it.

Until Start 2 is ratified, prospects for a follow-on treaty look dim. The Americans envisage Continuous Arms Reduction Talks (Cart) which would include strategic and non-strategic nuclear weapons. Washington believes that China, Britain and France should be included in a second phase of Cart.

But experts, including Ashworth Carter, a former Assistant Defence Secretary in the Clinton Administration, say scrapping all nuclear weapons is neither practical nor desirable until it is clear that other countries will do so, too. Few expect much progress here on beginning a new arms treaty.

The bouncy East meets wheelchair-bound West

BY MICHAEL BINYON

THE American President arrived in Helsinki yesterday in a Finnair catering capsule. Never has a summit begun so humiliatingly, never has protocol been so confused.

As Air Force One taxied to a halt in the crisp winter sun, a catering hoist edged forward to the plane's forward service entrance. President Ahtisaari and Finnish dignitaries shuffled and appeared perplexed: had the American President ordered a fresh round of duty-free drinks?

Suddenly, it was all clear. The red carpet was hastily relaid to line up with the Finnair truck. Officials readied themselves for the salute. Slowly the hoist went up, and slowly it came down again. No one emerged. It was, it appeared, a dummy run by the Secret Service to see that the contraption was working. Up and down it went again. The back flap opened, and a man holding crutches peered out suspiciously. Then Mr Clinton appeared. Smiling sheepishly as his wheelchair was pushed into view, he shook hands with the President and was manoeuvred to his limousine.

There were no speeches, no anthems, no inspections of the guard. There was not even a jaunty touch of Roosevelt. Mr Clinton had been doing some exercises with his physiotherapist on the flight over, but he was clearly not looking forward to the world's cartoonists having a field day.

President Yeltsin arrived a couple of hours later, and almost bounded down the steps, a picture of breezy health. Clearly relishing the contrast, he stood, smiling and bronzed (there must be sun-lamps in the Kremlin clinic) beside his wife, Naina, while the Russian national anthem echoed across the tarmac. He did not attempt to sing: there are no words to the latest national hymn as the Russian parliament is still locked in argument over what they should be.

He made an elaborate speech, thanking Mr Ahtisaari, thanking Finland, extolling good-neighbourly relations, damping down expectations of summit agreement and rounding off with hopes for world peace. It was almost as long as a Gorbachev statement, and certainly his longest public appearance for a year.

Both men then set off to check in. Mr Clinton has been moved out of the American Ambassador's residence as it has no lift, and is having to bunk down in the Intercontinental Hotel along with the entire travelling White House.

Mr Ahtisaari, an earthy, roly-poly man who appeals as much to Mr Yeltsin's bluffness as he does to Mr Clinton's Southern Good Old Boy charm, has lent his guests his house for the whole summit, and he and his wife have moved out.

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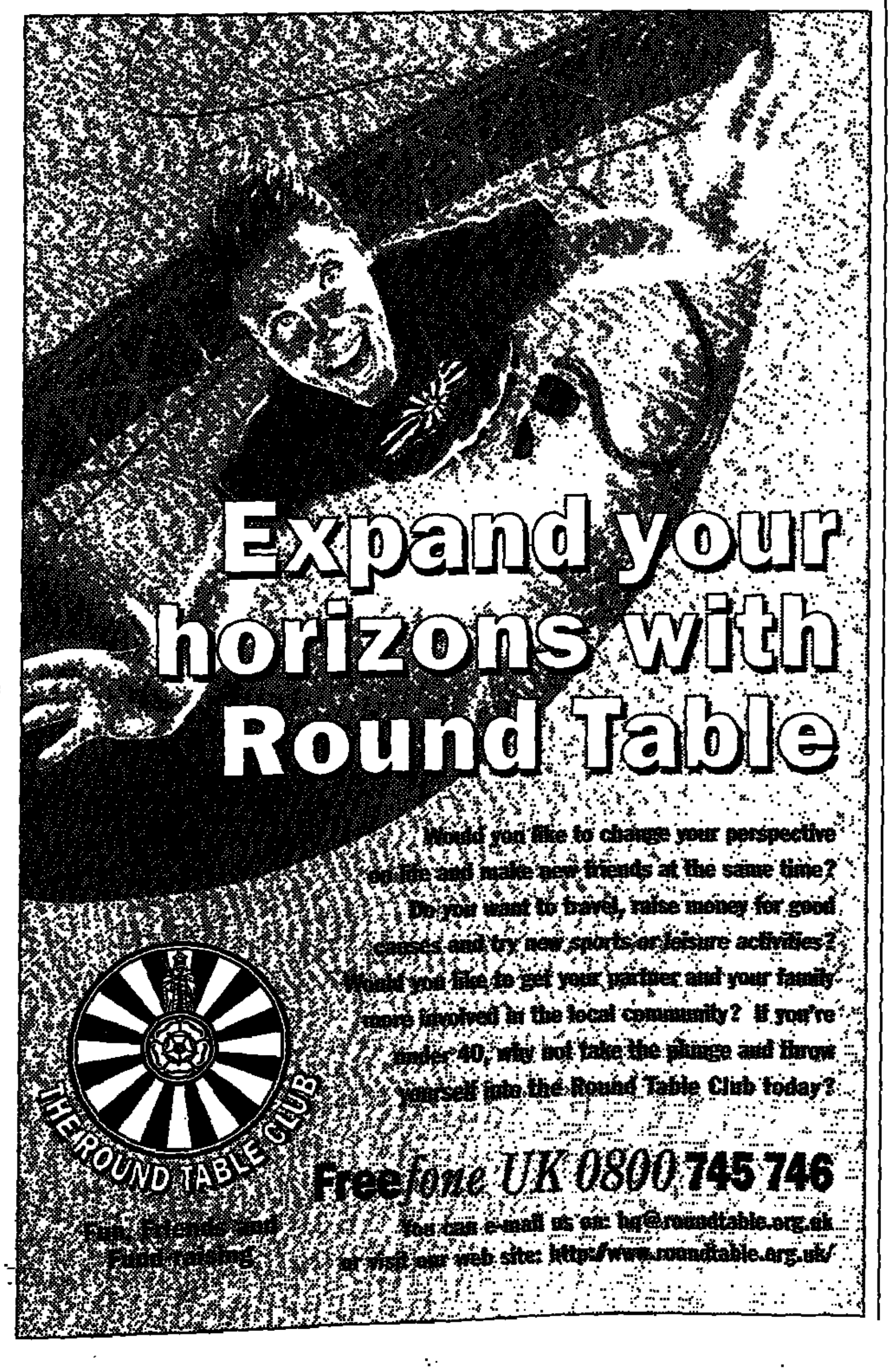

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Staff on

Colin Child, left, and Phil White

THE TIMES 2

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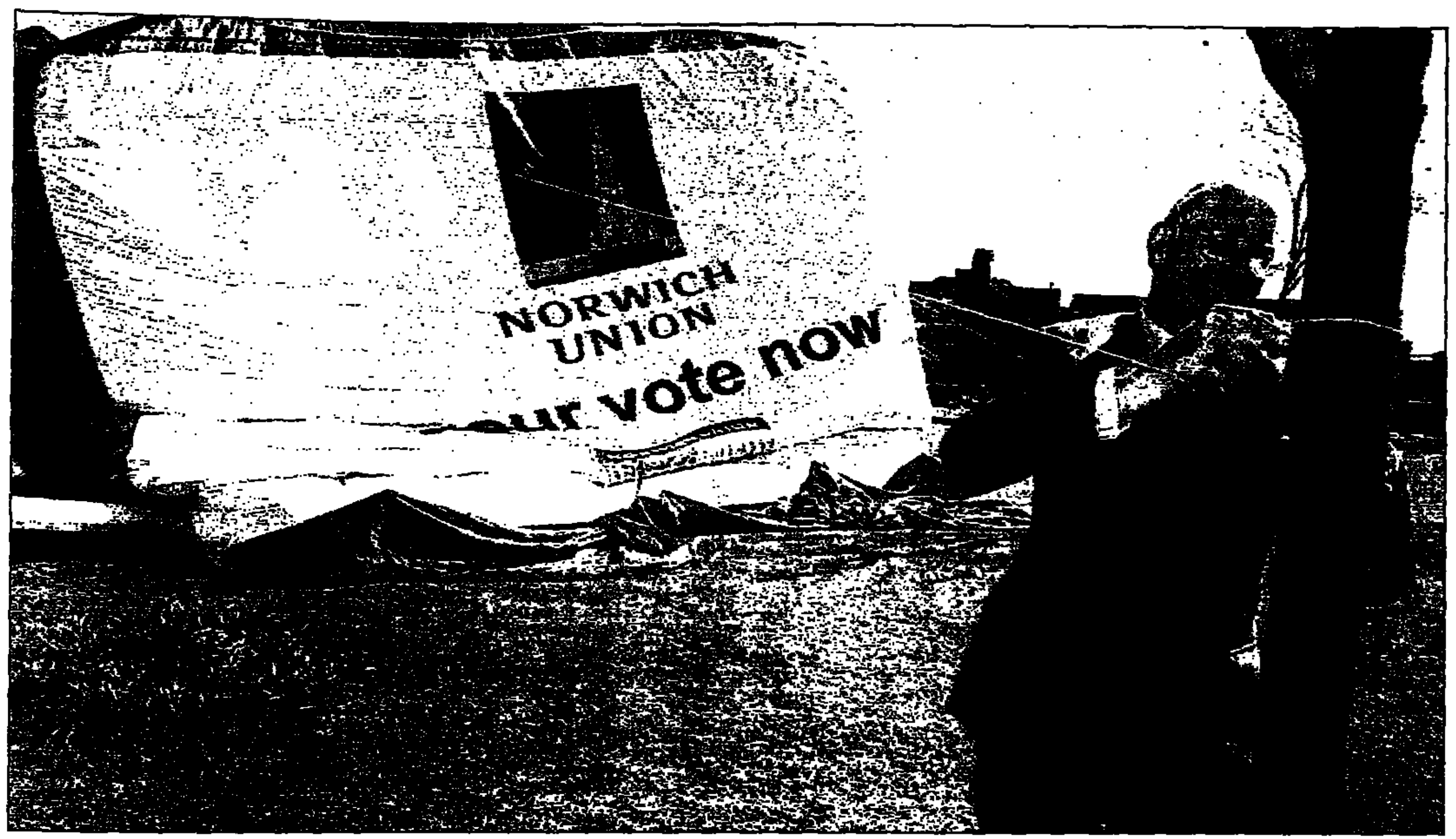

Inflation beater: George Paul, the Norwich Union chairman, tethers an errant inflatable sign as the insurer announced its flotation yesterday

Norwich members to get £3bn flotation windfall

By Gavin Lumsden

ALMOST three million members of Norwich Union will share a £3 billion windfall as a result of the insurer's £5 billion stock market flotation, it *was announced yesterday.*

Norwich Union is to issue 1.3 billion free shares to 2.9 million members. The average payout will be worth about £800. The shares will be split between the society's 1.8 million with-profit pensions and savings policyholders as well as its 1.1 million *non-profit holders of products* such as annuities and term-assurance mortgages.

Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, which is advising Norwich Union, estimates the shares will be worth between 220p and 265p. The offer excludes NU's 4.1 million non-life insurance customers worldwide.

NU is also seeking to raise *£1.75 billion in a rights issue to fund* a restructuring. Of this, £1.5 billion will go to the with-profits fund, which will become part of a new company called Norwich Union Life and Pensions. The money will replace *the general non-life business* which is being set up as a separate subsidiary, Norwich Union Insurance.

Today, 2.2 million UK members should receive a circular detailing their individual share allocation as well as a voting form. An extraordinary *meeting* is to be held at London Arena on April 18.

A 75 per *cent vote in favour* for the demutualisation is *required for to proceed.* This is likely as even non-profit holders will receive a fixed allocation of *150 shares.* With-profit policyholders will get a fixed allocation of 300 shares, worth up to £800. In addition, 57 per cent of them will receive a variable allocation dependent on the value of their policy. This could double the amount of shares given to a third of with-profit holders. Some 126,000 with-profit holders *stand to get more than* 1,200 shares. The 10,000 staff will also get 150 shares. According to a recent Inland Revenue ruling, NU members will have 42 days in which *to transfer an* unlimited number of shares *into the tax-free shelter of a* Pep. NU said people already drawing on policies, such as annuities, would also get 150 shares.

Qualifying members will also be able to buy further shares in the rights issue at a discount to the price set for the City. On the basis of privatisations, this could be about 5 per *cent to 10 per cent. Details will* be sent in a mini-prospectus in May. NU will pay its first dividend in June 1998. It said a notional net dividend for 1996 would have been worth £205 million.

Proposing the demutualisation, Allan Bridgewater, chief executive, said it would bring out *the true value of NU's* subsidiaries, increase its free asset ratio from 10.7 per cent to 15.4 per cent and improve its access to external capital. Significantly, he refused to comment on whether the company had received offers to merge since it announced the plan to *demutualise last October.*

Richard Harvey, group finance director, said the restructuring would enable the with-profits fund to invest an additional £1.2 billion in equities. NU had already begun a series of derivatives trades to do this. Restating corporate accounts, he said NU had achieved £483 million of pretax profits last year.

Pennington, page 27

CITY ADVISERS IN LINE FOR £145M BONANZA

THE cost of Norwich Union's flotation and rights issue will be £145 million, including a £25 million tax charge, equivalent to £26 for each qualifying member (Gavin Lumsden writes).

Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, which is coordinating the bookbuilding behind the rights issue, will get £40 *million. The rest will be* shared between other advisers, such as actuary Tillinghast-Towers Perrin, and the cost of communicating with its members worldwide.

Norwich Union is making 120 separate mailings. Unlike the converting building societies, it has been able to send a mini-circular to the 2.9 million members who qualify for shares, reserving 18,000 copies of *the full document for institutional investors.*

Advisers have been huge beneficiaries of the *rush to the stock market by building societies* and other mutuals. The Halifax paid £413 million in connection with the acquisition of the Leeds Building Society and the conversion to a bank.

Shares tumble as Greenspan overshadows inflation fall

By Janet Bush and Richard Thomson

LONDON *shares plunged to* their biggest daily loss since December, spooked once again by a warning of higher American interest rates from Alan Greenspan, Chairman of the US Federal Reserve.

The FT-SE 100 index closed 74.1 points lower at 4,258.1. The index now stands 186 points down from its all-time closing high on March 11, with all but 20 points of that slump *occurring this week after John* Major confirmed that the election will be on May 1.

The selling came despite news that British retail price inflation fell in February. Headline inflation edged lower to 2.7 per cent, from 2.8 per cent in January, while under*lying inflation* fell *from 3.1 per* cent to 2.9 per cent.

In December the FT-SE 100 was sent 88 points lower in a day after Mr Greenspan warned stock market investors against "irrational exuberance". This time he told the Joint Economic Committee of Congress that the American economy retained "a great *deal of vigour" and that the* job market remained strong.

In remarks widely interpreted as a strong hint that the US central bank will raise interest rates, he emphasised the need for the Fed to act preemptively to prevent inflation rising out of control.

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average imm*ediately fell 50 points before* recouping some of its losses to stand around 35 points lower at midday. The mood in London was, if anything, somewhat darker than on Wall Street.

The market is not only contending with the inevitable *uncertainties of an election* campaign, but also a growing perception that British interest rates will rise once the poll is over.

Despite yesterday's fall in inflation, the City was still worried by Wednesday's news of another sharp fall in unem*ployment,* higher average earnings growth and a healthy bounce in retail sales. These hints of economic strength were compounded yesterday by news of a sharp jump in broad money supply.

The fall *in headline inflation* was largely because of food *prices, although the index was* also depressed by household goods and personal goods prices. Housing and motoring costs, plus clothing prices, pushed inflation higher.

Pennington, page 27
Markets, page 28

Mortgage lending falls in February

THE patchy nature of the housing market recovery was underlined yesterday by the *latest mortgage lending* figures from banks and building *societies, showing a slight fall* in February. But outside the housing market demand for credit remained strong.

Meanwhile, manufacturers said exports were now at their lowest level since 1993 because of the strength of sterling. The Confederation of *British Industry said an im*provement in domestic orders had compensated *for* the decline in exports. Page 26

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	4258.1	(-74.1)
Yield	3.79%	
FTSE All share	*2079.85*	*(-35.55)*
Nikkei	Closed	
New York:		
Dow Jones	6829.34	(-48.34)*
S&P Composite	781.85	(-3.92)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5¼%*	(5³⁄₁₆%)
Long Bond	*95¹³⁄₃₂**	*(95⁶⁄₃₂)*
Yield	7.00%*	(6.99%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	6⁵⁄₃₂%	(6⁵⁄₃₂%)
Liffe long gilt future (Jun)	108¹³⁄₁₆	(109⁵⁄₁₆)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.5942*	(1.5982)
London:		
$	1.5942	(1.5973)
DM	2.6888	(2.6858)
FFr	9.0710	(9.0581)
SFr	2.3051	(2.3082)
Yen	196.78	(196.06)
£ Index	96.3	(96.3)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.6901*	(1.6803)
FFr	5.6910*	(5.6710)
SFr	1.4495*	(1.4425)
Yen	123.57*	(122.82)
$ Index	104.4	(104.1)

Tokyo close Yen 123.03

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Jun)	$20.20	($20.25)

GOLD

London close	$351.25	($348.95)

* denotes midday trading price

Guinness warns

Guinness gave warning that the soaring pound could knock about £100 million off *its profits over the next two* years. The company reported an *11* per cent rise in 1996 pretax profits to £975 million. **Page 27**

Tax fear

John Laing, one of Britain's largest construction companies, said Labour's proposed windfall tax could stifle recovery in the building trade, should the party come to power. **Page 30**

Legal & General offers 'mis-selling' solution

By Martin Waller

LEGAL & GENERAL, one of the country's biggest insurers, claims it has come up with a way of helping the half a million people who were wrongly tempted out of occupational schemes *and into personal pension plans.*

The L&G was heavily implicated in the *long-running,* and still largely unresolved, pension mis-selling scandal. *L&G has so far offered redress* to only about 10 *per* cent of the 20,000 or more mis-selling cases it *has identified.*

David Prosser, chief executive, says the slow rate of progress requires *the* industry to take the initiative. He proposes issuing a legally binding guarantee to restore any loss of benefits *to pension plan holders* wrongly advised by L&G representatives to opt *out of their company scheme.* "*What* matters to the individual is that they know, as a *matter of certainty, that,* when they retire, all the pension benefits to which they would have been entitled will be paid," said Mr Prosser.

L&G will earmark an unspecified proportion of the group's £20 billion life fund to back the guarantees. This sum will be subject to the usual checks by the Department of Trade and Industry on insurers. The scheme needs the agreement of the Personal Invest*ment Authority,* the consumer finance regulator. Yesterday it was sceptical.

Pennington, page 27

ABN Amro in talks to buy Capel-Cure Myers

By Caroline Merrell

ABN *Amro Hoare Govett,* the broking arm of the Dutch bank, has confirmed *that it is in discussions over the* purchase of Capel-Cure Myers Capital Management, *the leading private* client portfolio manager.

John Henderson, chief executive of Capel-Cure Myers Capital Management, said the firm had made the announcement in a bid to end market speculation about the future of the company. "There have been many rumours about a change of ownership," he said.

Capel-Cure Myers manages about £4 billion on behalf of private clients and pension funds. The company is thought to have made £7 million in 1996. Capel-Cure Myers is currently 70 *per cent owned* by CIGL, *a company* formed from the collapse of a Canadi*an property and financial services* group. At the end of last year, CIGL *indicated that it wanted to sell its* stake. Mr Henderson said: "We had preliminary discussions with a number of different parties." The company currently employs 450 staff. He added that a purchase by ABN Amro would represent the best fit for the company.

ABN Amro has been interested in increasing its asset management arm in this country for a long time. It was this ambition that led it to offer a job to Nicola Horlick, the former senior Morgan Grenfell fund manager.

Staff on National Express gravy train

Colin Child, left, and Phil White

By Fraser Nelson

NATIONAL EXPRESS, the transport group, is to give away about £30 million in shares as a loyalty bonus to the staff of its West Midlands bus *company.*

More than 4,000 workers of West Midland Travel, *which became part of* National Express two years ago, will receive an average *payout* worth £7,800 as a reward for holding on to their shares for two years.

The staff, who were the owners of West Midlands Travel before it was taken *over in a* £200 million deal, will receive the windfall after the company's annual *meeting on May 1. Six* million shares are being issued, which were set aside as part of the original deal.

The company, which last month became Britain's biggest train operator after winning the franchise for ScotRail, made an operating profit of £2.1 million from Gatwick Express and *Midland Main Line in their* first eight months. The two lines were expected *only to break even. Phil White, chief* executive, said the company, which formally takes over ScotRail next month, was confident that it could resolve the dispute that has left the country's rail system *paralysed* by one-day strikes.

National Express's investment in its bus fleet helped the division to lift *profits by 60 per cent, to £39.4 million.* After a restructuring charge of £3.83 million, group pre-tax profits were 45 per cent ahead at £60.1 million. Earnings were 32.8p (27.9p) and a final dividend of 8.1p, due on May 2, lifts the total to 11.5p (10p).

Colin Child, the finance director, said that after cutting borrowings from *£37.8 million to £5.1 million,* the company was on the prowl for acquisitions. It is unlikely to buy any UK bus companies, he said, but would be interested in bidding for a part of London's Underground system.

Tempus, page 28

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TS21/3/97

Home loans point to patchy recovery

By Robert Miller and Janet Bush

THE patchy nature of the housing market recovery was underlined yesterday by the latest mortgage lending figures from banks and building societies.

But, outside the housing sector, demand for credit in the economy appeared to remain strong and the M4 broad measure of money supply leapt, underscoring a growing view in the City that interest rates will have to be raised after the election.

The Building Societies Association (BSA) said that net and gross mortgage lending fell slightly in February, although approvals rose to £2.9 billion from £2.5 billion in January. Members of the association recorded a £335 million monthly fall in net advances from £1 billion in January while monthly gross advances declined by £163 million to £2.6 billion. Savings inflows of £1.6 billion last month were higher than January's £1.1 billion.

Adrian Coles, BSA director-general, said: "Building society net and gross mortgage lending fell slightly in February on both a seasonally adjusted and unadjusted basis. On a seasonally adjusted basis net advances are 13 per cent higher than last year."

Mr Coles, who said the latest figures show a moderate and patchy recovery is continuing, added: "This slight downturn in lending should not be taken as an indication that the recovery in the housing market is faltering. We are seeing some areas recovering very strongly indeed while others are still waiting to see the full benefits of the upturn."

The British Bankers' Association said that mortgage lending by the major UK banks, to be joined shortly by the Alliance & Leicester and later in the summer by the Halifax, Woolwich and Northern Rock, rose by £743 million compared with £806 million in January.

The BBA, which said that the monthly home loan figures remained comfortably above the recent average, added that consumer credit rose strongly by £626 million, of which credit cards accounted for £231 million.

The figure that attracted most concern in the City was a 1.4 per cent jump in M4 money supply in February, much bigger than economists had expected. This took its annual growth to 11.3 per cent from 10 per cent in the year to January, so taking M4 even further above the upper limit of the Government's 3 to 9 per cent monitoring range.

Although M4 has been distorted by the introduction of the gilt repo market, economists still said that its rapid growth was a worry.

Provisions take toll of Renault

RENAULT, the French automaker, suffered a net loss of Fr5.25 billion in 1996, the company said.

Losses were struck after costs and provisions of Fr3.91 billion, particularly for closing the group's plant near Brussels, and for the social plan the company must implement in France in connection with its restructuring plans.

As a result of the provisions, the group incurred an operating loss of Fr5.99 billion, compared with a profit of Fr1.26 billion in 1995. Excluding restructuring charges, the operating loss would be Fr1.77 billion.

Automotive activities lost Fr2.45 billion, excluding provisions. The commercial vehicle arm had an operating loss of Fr705 million.

PETER TREVNOR

Tom Farmer, the chairman, said yesterday that the record had been achieved despite flat market conditions

Sterling 'has delivered untimely exports blow'

By Philip Bassett, industrial editor

BRITAIN'S manufacturing exports are now at their lowest level since 1993 because of the strength of sterling. The latest evidence of the UK's weakening export performance will be a blow to the Government ahead of the general election in the midst of a run of good figures on inflation and unemployment.

In its latest monthly trends survey, the Confederation of British Industry today says that sterling's continued strength has led to export demand for UK manufactured goods reaching its lowest level since November 1993.

The survey of more than 1,000 firms in 50 industries, accounting for half the UK's manufacturing exports, shows that 35 per cent of companies consider their export books below normal. Only 17 per cent say their export books are above normal.

This net balance of 18 per cent of companies citing below normal export levels marks a rapidly accelerating trend — down from a net balance of 12 per cent recording below normal exports in February, and 8 per cent in January.

Sudhir Junankar, CBI associate director of economic analysis, says the findings "show that the strength of sterling is beginning to take its toll on export orders".

Manufacturers hope that falling export orders can be offset by domestic sales, and the CBI's survey gives some support to that, showing that home demand is stronger than export performance. Total orders are now broadly stable after an improvement in demand. With a fifth of firms saying that total orders are above normal and 21 per cent suggesting they are below usual levels, the net negative balance of 1 per cent compares with a figure of minus 6 per cent for February and is the closest that overall order books have been to normal levels since September 1995.

Suggesting that this improvement in domestic demand has "more than compensated" for the fall in exports, the CBI says that with stocks at more than adequate levels, manufacturers have become more confident about raising output.

However, the survey sounds a warning note on inflation. A net 9 per cent of companies expect domestic prices to rise over the next four months, compared with only 4 per cent last month.

Kwik-Fit wheels in a record

By Fraser Nelson

REFURBISHMENT and construction of new sites helped Kwik-Fit, the car parts repair company, to return record profits last year. Its number of worldwide sites broke through 1,000.

The company opened 31 green field sites and added 83 centres to its national network over the year, which helped pre-tax profits grow 19 per cent to £43.3 million on sales up 17 per cent at £427 million.

Tom Farmer, chairman, said that the results had been achieved in spite of flat market conditions. The group continued to lift its market share in The Netherlands. The division had attracted a million motorists.

Earnings grew to 17.2p (14.7p) per share. The dividend rises to 5.6p (5p), with a final 3.5p due May 13.

Up to speed, page 33

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Lloyd's hearing opens at High Court

THE first in a series of hearings to deal with alleged fraud at Lloyd's of London opens at the High Court in London today. A number of names are refusing to pay funds owed under the reconstruction and renewal (R&R) plan, on the grounds that they were fraudulently induced to enter the market. They say their membership of Lloyd's should be rescinded in these circumstances, removing the obligation to pay. Lloyd's says the names have entered into third party contracts with the policyholders and are hence bound to membership. If so, the court will address whether the names are obliged to pay their premiums to Equitas, the new reinsurance company, before pursuing any fraud claims.

Meanwhile, Sally Noel, the Lloyd's campaigner, has postponed plans to lead a march on Downing Street, demanding a government enquiry into Lloyd's. Mrs Noel is concerned that the march will attract "an unwanted, rebellious and fanatical element".

Jardine Matheson falls

JARDINE MATHESON, the Hong Kong trading conglomerate that owns a 50 per cent stake in Jardine Fleming, suffered a 29 per cent fall in net profits to US$300.2 million after a $56 million charge for non-recurring items. These included a $26 million charge for regulatory breaches at Jardine Fleming Investment Management in London and Hong Kong. Dairy Farm International, the food retailing arm of the trading group, also incurred reorganisation costs at Kwik Save in the UK and Franklins in Australia.

Utilities under fire again

THE privatised utilities came in for a fresh barrage of criticism yesterday over excessive profits and "fat cat" pay from an all-party group of MPs. The Public Accounts Committee, which monitors public spending, demanded tougher action from the utility regulators to ensure that profits are curbed and that companies think twice before awarding top executives large pay packages. The attack follows criticism earlier this week in a Trade and Industry Select Committee report on energy regulation.

Securicor warning

SECURICOR, the security group dominated by its Cellnet investment, has given warning that stiff competition has accelerated the rate at which customers are "churning" mobile phones. Its shares fell 21p to 294½p. Orange also suffered, falling 1½p to 205p and Vodafone dropped 8½p to 274p. Securicor has taken an £18 million charge to change its accounting policies, assuming that customers would return phones after two years, not three. Its communications division is now expected to return a loss of £9 million in the first half.

Hanson expands in US

HANSON, which became a building materials company after its demerger, has expanded its construction business in America with the acquisition of Concrete Pipes and Products through its Cornerstone Construction & Materials unit for £78 million. Chris Collins, deputy chairman, said: "This is our new strategy in action." After the integration of Concrete Pipes, Cornerstone will be one of the largest concrete pipe producers in the US.

Merger for US banks

FIRST BANK SYSTEM is to acquire US Bancorp for $8.5 billion in an all-shares deal that will form America's 14th-largest bank. The deal between First Bank, based in Minneapolis, and US Bancorp, a regional bank based in Portland, Oregon, will result in the loss of about 4,000 jobs, the banks said. First Bank said that it would take pre-tax charges of $625 million for costs related to the merger, which was expected to close by the end of June.

Servisair soars 20%

SERVISAIR, the airport services company, achieved a 20 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £7.1 million last year, reflecting continued growth in passenger air traffic and cargo volumes. Turnover increased 20 per cent to £153.9 million. Earnings were 19 per cent higher at 12.7p a share. A final dividend of 3.45p a share lifts the total 19 per cent to 5.1p. Tony McCann, the chairman, said he expected an "acceleration of outsourcing opportunities from airlines".

Boots Contract purchase

BOOTS Contract Manufacturing, part of The Boots Company, has paid £15.2 million to acquire a French toiletries manufacturer. Roval is the leading supplier of own-brand toiletries in France. It also has a growing business in Spain and Portugal. Its turnover last year was about £27 million. It employs more than 200 people in France and Spain. Boots already operates BCM Cosmetique in France. The new acquisition will create a combined French turnover of almost £40 million.

Jury in the Gokal trial due to retire

By Jon Ashworth

THE jury in the trial of Abbas Gokal, the former head of the Gulf Group, is today expected to retire to consider its verdict.

Mr Justice Buxton is due to complete his summing up this morning. The trial opened at the Old Bailey in September last year.

Mr Gokal, 61, denies one count of false accounting and a second of conspiracy to defraud. It is alleged that, between 1985 and 1991, he conspired with various officials of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) to falsify loan documents, board minutes, and other documents, with a view to enabling BCCI to secretly fund the Gulf Group.

The court heard that the Gulf Group was indebted to BCCI to the tune of more than $1.2 billion.

Mr Gokal is further alleged to have conspired with BCCI officials to create a financial structure designed to deceive Price Waterhouse, BCCI's auditor. The structure was allegedly controlled by, but not traceable to, the Gulf Group, and was designed to channel funds to Gulf from BCCI.

The Gulf Group was based in Geneva and had extensive interests in shipping and trading. The jury was told that Mr Gokal had fled to Pakistan after the company collapsed in 1992, but was arrested in Frankfurt two years later, when the aircraft on which he was travelling to New York put down to refuel. He was later extradited to the UK.

Power programme 'should be delayed'

By Christine Buckley, industrial correspondent

THE programme to enable households to shop around for their electricity supply has slipped so far behind schedule that a delay should be considered, MPs said yesterday.

The all-party Trade and Industry Select Committee also criticised the management of the ambititous project.

Referring to the industry's efforts to set in place the mechanics that will enable the country's 25 million electricity consumers to switch electricity supplier by April 1998, the committee said: "Given they will have had eight years notice since vesting, this progress is substantially less than we would have expected to see some 12 months before implementation." It concluded: "The possibility of a short delay should not be excluded."

The committee also calls for an inquiry into the cost benefits of opening the market to competition. MPs are concerned that the costs of implementing competition should not outweigh or balance the benefits.

Pennington, page 27

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells		Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.13	1.97	Malta	0.649	0.594
Austria Sch	19.86	18.36	Netherlds Gld	3.171	2.941
Belgium Fr	58.30	54.00	New Zealand $	2.45	2.23
Canada $	2.307	2.147	Norway Kr	11.34	10.54
Cyprus Cyp£ .	0.838	0.783	Portugal Esc ..	281.00	262.50
Denmark Kr ...	10.81	10.01	S Africa Rd	7.68	6.88
Finland Mkk ..	8.57	7.92	Spain Pta	239.00	222.00
France Fr	9.45	8.80	Sweden Kr	13.10	12.10
Germany Dm .	2.84	2.63	Switzerland Fr	2.43	2.25
Greece Dr	442	416	Turkey Lira	208000	194000
Hong Kong $	13.03	12.03	USA $	1.698	1.568
Iceland	120	100			
Ireland Pt	1.07	0.99			
Israel Shk	5.87	5.02			
Italy Lira	2848	2648			
Japan Yen	210.30	194.30			

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The Standard Life Assurance Company Annual General Meeting

The 171st Annual General Meeting of the Company will be held in Standard Life House, 30 Lothian Road, Edinburgh on Tuesday 22 April 1997 at 2.30pm.

A member entitled to attend and vote is entitled to appoint a proxy to attend and vote. A proxy need not be a member.

By order of the Board of Directors
Alan R Forbes
Secretary
Edinburgh, 20 March 1997

Policyholders may obtain a copy of the Annual Report and Accounts, including the agenda, by writing to the Customer Service Information Team at PO Box 141, 1 Tanfield, Edinburgh EH3 5RG or by telephoning (0131) 245 2668. Proxy forms may be similarly obtained by members entitled to vote.

STANDARD LIFE

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هكذا من الأصل

☐ Insurers must speed up mis-selling restitution ☐ Power deregulation should be delayed ☐ Election promises cost money

L&G's dubious moral high ground

☐ THERE is a body of opinion that believes most of our big insurance companies should be put out of business by government or regulatory fiat. Legal & General, the mighty Prudential, Pearl Assurance, they should all be shut down, because their sins in the late 1980s make them no better than Barlow Clowes, the Titan pyramid selling schemes or those wretched ostrich farms.

This is not all hyperbole; the mis-selling of personal pensions that started in 1988 was both illegal and immoral — and it was being carried out by some of the finest names in financial services.

But in the real world you do not shut down the likes of the Pru — although you do go hunting with your elephant gun for the gnats of the industry, the small independent financial advisers that did much the same thing.

Now one of the big names has come up with its own solution. Legal & General is proposing a set-aside of a billion pounds or more by the industry to guarantee meeting its future obligations. These are to put those people it led astray back where they would have been if they had stayed with their occupational pensions all along.

At present the insurers are forced to adopt a case-by-case approach. They look at each individual example, go to the relevant occupational pension that the investor has opted out of, and then write a cheque to top up the existing pension to where it should have been. This is horribly slow, for reasons that are in dispute. Of 558,000 cases of potential mis-selling identifed, fewer than 11,000 have been offered redress.

If that reserve fund is in place, argues Legal & General, then we need not hurry because those in any doubt know they will get their money in the end, and can sleep at night without worrying whether death or retirement will intervene before the necessary sums can be done.

There are two cynical responses to this plan, which is likely to be accepted with alacrity by other insurers if it gains regulatory blessing. One is that L&G is trying to claim the moral high ground while merely agreeing to meet its existing obligations. The other is that the group is trying to identify a tangible limit on the monetary damage it faces from mis-selling, to the benefit of its credit rating, share price, and so on.

Such cynicism is probably justified, even if unsophisticated investors might draw some crumbs of comfort from yesterday's news. The money will indeed be there on retirement — except that it would have been all along.

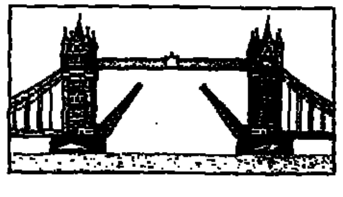
The Personal Investment Authority, which in November tried to speed up the process of extracting the necessary data from occupational schemes, has set an unofficial target of a 90 per cent clear-up rate for mis-selling by the end of this year. This is a hard one to hit, but the insurers should still try, and not be allowed to use their own pensions guarantees to drag their feet.

When the bugs come out to play

☐ IN A performance as mealy-mouthed as it is weak-kneed, the Trade and Industry Select Committee looking at the deregulation of electricity in a year and ten days says it is, yes, just possible that a slight delay will be needed.

In this, MPs are falling in line with both common sense and the

PENNINGTON



majority of the people who will actually have to create a free market in power, allowing you and I to shop around with a range of companies keen to sell it to us. This is an extension of the similar choice already opening up in the gas industry — but with one enormous difference.

Those independents now offering cheap gas are in a better position to cut your quarterly bills than their counterparts in electricity a year hence because the cost of distribution down the pipelines, which will continue to be born by BG, successor to British Gas, is fixed at about 40 per cent of that bill. This means the independents have 60 per cent to play for. Of your electricity bill, 90 per cent is distribution and generation cost, or thereabouts, and only 10 per cent supply, which should therefore be inherently less profitable.

This begs the question whether we need a competitive market at all. But the real problem is the computers needed to track the supply of power to 20 million homes, a point accepted by the select committee. All 14 electricity distributors, including the two Scots, must have these running by the turn of the year to allow three months of testing.

Any competent computer technician would say that such a system needed at least a year to iron out the bugs, but this is impossible because the specifications are not yet agreed with the regulator. The danger is that on All Fools' Day next year the bugs come out to play. Months later, with a large number of electricity bills having gone out wrong, it is impossible to work out electronically who took what power from whom, and who has paid.

The only people forcing through this timetable are the politicians at the Department of Trade and Industry. According to the opinion polls, they will not be here come June. This at least allows their successors the opportunity of a graceful extension of that April deadline.

Voting the Norwich way

☐ TWO hundred years ago, when the Norwich Union was founded, general elections were much more fun for those privileged few who were entitled to vote. Election promises meant something, namely cash. Candidates knew votes were valuable and did the decent thing. Unless the opinion polls are radically wrong, it would scarcely be worthwhile for the parties to pay much for votes on May 1, even if it were legal.

Up in Norwich, however, they still know that votes are valuable. When members exercise theirs in four weeks' time, the board will have no compunction about buying them. Quite right too. Under the original proposals, it seemed that only the 1.8 million holders of with-profits life or pensions policies had a full interest in the fund and would get the free shares that represented their stake in it. But conversion from mutual to plc requires a three-quarters majority, and holders of non-profit policies have voting rights too.

So 1.1 million of them are to be offered 150 shares each, worth an estimated £375, compared with a minimum of £750 for with-profit policyholders. What better illustration of the value of democracy and the need to protect your franchise, whether in the affairs of state, the European Union or the East Anglian version.

Unlike customers of building societies, with-profits policyholders could also win a continuing benefit from conversion. Some £1.5 billion new money will be used to buy non-life businesses from the life fund, making it more flexible, with a better chance to perform competitively.

Greenspan III

☐ ALAN Greenspan's first gnomic warnings bludgeoned Wall Street. The next version, dubbed Greenspan II: the Sequel, left blasé traders urging the Fed Chairman to put up or shut up. Put up interest rates that is. Yesterday's hint that he might do just that on Tuesday only shocked traders for a few hours. Greenspan's code words were: "The performance of the economy remains quite favourable."

Guinness puts cost of strong pound at £100m

By Alasdair Murray

GUINNESS gave warning yesterday that the soaring pound could knock about £100 million off its profits over the next two years.

The drinks company said that if the pound remained at current levels, profits this year would be depressed by £60 million, and by a further £40 million next year.

Tony Greener, chairman, said most of the currency hit related to profits translation and that underlying growth should accelerate this year. Western markets were improving for the first time since the recession, he added.

Guinness also hinted that it would shortly launch another buy-back, with market predictions suggesting that it will repurchase around £100 million of shares. The company has returned £645 million to shareholders through buy-backs in the past year. Guinness shares rose 15½p to a two-year high of 501½p.

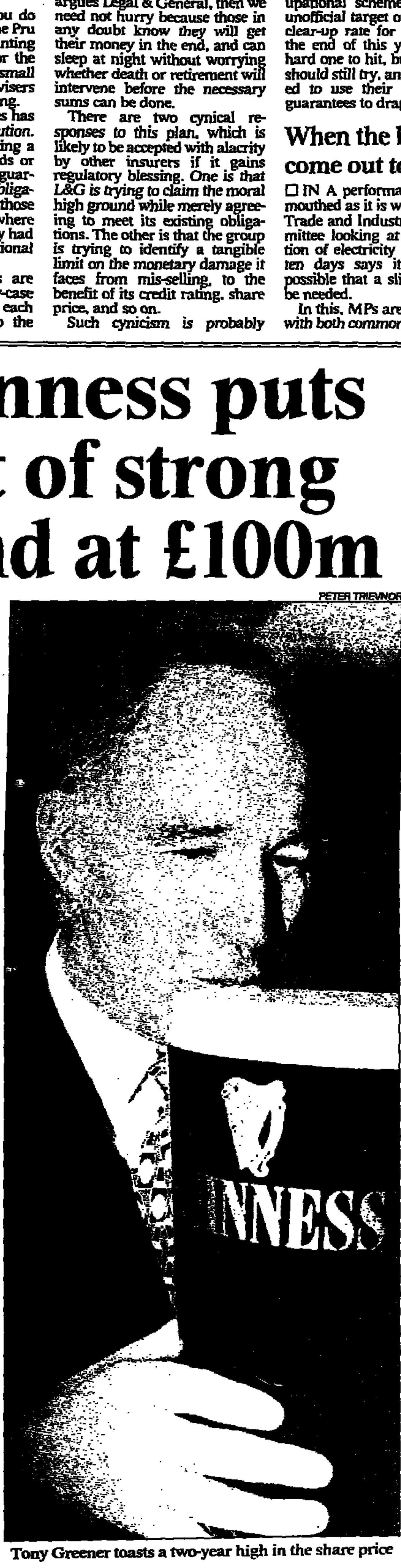
The company recorded an 11 per cent rise in full year profits, excluding tax, to £975 million — slightly ahead of forecasts. Overall turnover rose 3 per cent to £4.73 billion, while the total dividend was up 8 per cent to 16.1p.

Operating profits in the spirits division were flat, at £678 million, although volumes rose 1 per cent. Sales of Johnnie Walker Red Label rose 4 per cent, while sales of single malts jumped 20 per cent. But overall sales of whisky fell 1 per cent. Guinness has raised spirits prices by an average of 1.5 per cent. It plans to raise prices 3.8 per cent next month in the UK.

Guinness doubled expenditure on new brands to £17 million. Marketing expenditure rose 10 per cent, to £332 million, and the company said it would maintain double-digit growth in marketing spend this year.

Guinness Brewing Worldwide increased profits 6 per cent, to £283 million. Sales of Guinness stout rose 5 per cent, with total beer volumes rising 4 per cent. There was also a strong performance from Kilkenny, which is now availble in 5,000 outlets in the UK. Marketing investment rose 8 per cent to £205 million, while the Irish pub concept, which is supported by Guinness, grew by a third, with a total of 1,250 outlets in 37 countries.

PETER TRIEVNOR



Tony Greener toasts a two-year high in the share price

Cruzcampo, the Spanish subsidiary, faced another difficult year, with overall volumes falling 3 per cent. But restructuring had helped productivity to rise 14 per cent and profits stayed at £22 million.

The contribution from Möet Hennessy Loius Vuitton (LVMH), in which Guinness holds a 34 per cent stake, rose 2 per cent to £113 million. A final dividend of 11.55p is payable on May 20.

Tempus, page 28

Whitbread sells Pizza Piazza chain for £11.25m

Whitbread yesterday sold the Pizza Piazza restaurant chain to a management buy-in team for £11.25 million.

Passion for Food, the company formed to complete the purchase, beat off tough competition for the chain from Queensborough Holdings, which recently recruited Michael Guthrie, the founder of BrightReasons, to launch a restaurant division.

Whitbread acquired the chain as part of its £46 million purchase of the BrightReasons restaurant chain at the end of last year. But the company made it clear that it would put the chain up for sale as it overlapped with its existing Pizza interests which include Pizza Hut.

Pizza Piazza has 20 upmarket pizza and pasta restaurants in the South of England. Jeremy Long, who was formerly managing director at Pavilion Services, will serve as chairman of the new company, while Ivan Taylor, who was managing director of BrightReasons, becomes chief executive. The buy-in is being backed by 3i and Banque Indosuez.

Whitbread shares closed down 14½p at 773½p, while shares in Queensborough fell 1½p to 32p.

APV blames market for fall

Tough market conditions were blamed for a sharp fall in profits at APV, the supplier of equipment and services to the food industry.

In the year to December 31, pre-tax profits were £15 million compared with £26.9 million a year earlier, on turnover that fell to £772 million from £881.9 million.

Restructuring costs were £16 million compared with £10.5 million a year ago. Orders in the first two months of this year are 15 per cent lower than a year ago.

Earnings per share were 3.7p (7.2p) and the final dividend of 1.7p (1p) gives a maintained full-year dividend of 2.7p, which is payable on July 1.

Tempus, page 28

Usborne ahead

Usborne, the agricultural services group headed by Lord Parkinson, has increased its first-half pre-tax profits to £416,000. Fertiliser blending performed ahead of targets, but the company is again not paying an interim dividend.

Wm Morrison moves South

By Sarah Cunningham

Morrison: new stores

WM MORRISON, the Yorkshire supermarkets group, is to open its first branches in the South of England next year.

The group, which did not open any new stores in 1996, is planning five this year and five next year. It expects to create up to 2,250 new full- and part-time jobs in 1998.

The branches in the South will be at Erith in Kent and Banbury in Oxfordshire. The other three will be in Yorkshire.

The company, headed by Kenneth Morrison, chairman and managing director, announced its expansion plans yesterday along with its results for the year ended February 2. It made a pre-tax profit of £135.8 million compared with £127.1 million a year ago.

Analysts said that while the profit figures were good, trading was disappointing. Like-for-like sales were up 1.5 per cent and growth slowed in the first few weeks of this year to just 0.4 per cent.

Earnings per share were 11.01p (10.67p) and the final dividend of 1.375p (1.125p), payable on May 16, gives a full-year dividend of 1.7p, up from 1.4p.

Talks on Tesco's Irish bid resume

By Sarah Cunningham

TALKS between Tesco, the supermarkets group, and Associated British Foods (ABF) about the purchase of the food manufacturer's Irish supermarkets were back on yesterday, Tesco said, after breaking down late on Wednesday over price.

Sources close to the company said that a deal, which would propel Tesco to market leadership in Ireland, could be ready today or early next week, but there is still a slim chance that no compromise over price will be reached.

Tesco is expected to pay between £600 million and £650 million for the 110 stores which make up the Stewarts and Crazy Prices chain in Northern Ireland and the Quinnsworth chain in the Irish Republic. The businesses generated around £1.1 billion of sales last year and some £55 million of operating profits.

The deal would give Tesco a 26 per cent share of the market in the Republic of Ireland and a 30 per cent share in Northern Ireland.

Tesco is understood to have walked out of the talks on Wednesday evening because ABF, which is run by Garry Weston, was insisting on too high a price.

Tesco, the market leader in Britain, has one Metro store in Northern Ireland. Together with J Sainsbury, it has run into difficulties obtaining planning permission for large stores there.

Safeway's name has been linked to a bid for the whole or part of Wellworths, the supermarkets group owned by Fitzwilton group, the investment vehicle of Tony O'Reilly, the Heinz chief.

Highlights from Standard Life's Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 15 November 1996

The Group

- Group assets under management increased by some £6bn to just under £50bn. Total new premiums worldwide increased by almost 30% to £2.6bn.
- For companies such as Standard Life, which are financially strong and operationally efficient, mutuality is clearly in the best interests of current and future policyholders. The Company is, therefore, not presently considering demutualisation.

United Kingdom

- 1996 was an exceptional year for new business, with an increase in total new premiums of over 40%.
- Standard Life's reputation with Independent Financial Advisers as the premier life assurance company was reflected in the awards received from them during the year; these included 'IFA Company of the Year'.
- The Company took possession of a new Head Office in Lothian Road, Edinburgh.

Canada

- Investment performance was again in the top quartile in independent surveys.
- The Company undertook a number of initiatives designed to meet the needs of its customers including the launch of a Customer Services Centre and the introduction of a Customer Satisfaction Guarantee.

Republic of Ireland

- Annual premium new business increased by nearly 20% and single premium business by almost 90%. Group pensions business also grew strongly as a result of outstanding investment performance.

Germany

- Significant progress has been made in building a business in Germany following the opening of an office in Frankfurt.

Spain

- 1996 was a very successful year for Prosperity SA which now sells through 31 branches. Total new premiums increased by 40%.

India

- Standard Life continues to work with its joint venture partner, Housing Development and Finance Corporation, on the initial preparatory work required to set up a new life assurance company.

China

- A Representative Office was opened in Shanghai and a General Manager (Pacific Region) was appointed in April.

The Annual Report and Accounts, including the Agenda for the Annual General Meeting to be held on Tuesday 22 April, will be available from Tuesday 1 April. Policyholders may obtain a copy by writing to the Customer Information Team at PO Box 141, 1 Tanfield, Edinburgh EH3 5RG or by telephoning (0131) 245 2668. Proxy forms may be similarly obtained by members entitled to vote.

STANDARD LIFE

The Standard Life Assurance Company* is a mutual company registered in Scotland (no SZ4) Head Office Standard Life House 30 Lothian Road Edinburgh Tel (0131) 225 2552
The Standard Life marketing group includes Standard Life Pension Funds Limited*† Standard Life Trust Management Limited*† Standard Life Fund Management Limited*†

*Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority †Regulated by IMRO

Proceeds to be reinvested after deal with US rival

Ocean sells OIL for £328m

By Carl Mortished

OCEAN, the logistics and marine services group, is selling OIL, its offshore oil services business to Tidewater, an American competitor, for £328 million.

The sale is expected to generate a pre-tax profit of £228 million and Ocean Group will reinvest the proceeds in MSAS, its logistics business. John Allan, chief executive, said: "This sale will enable us to accelerate our progress towards our primary objective — to become a world leader in the fast-growing global logistics market."

Mr Allan said that Tidewater had approached Ocean with an offer for the offshore business. He added that OIL was a capital-intensive business that would require heavy investment in due course, and that he believed Ocean was selling the business well into the growth cycle.

OIL has a fleet of 100 ships servicing offshore oil installations in the North Sea, West Africa, the Middle East and South America. The deal will reinforce Tidewater's position as the market leader in the business at a time of increased activity in offshore exploration. Tidewater is the biggest operator in the Gulf of Mexico but has little presence in the North Sea or West Africa. Last year, OIL made an operating profit of £21.1 million and had capital employed of £91.8 million.

Ocean had balance sheet gearing of only 6 per cent at the year end and the deal will give the company substantial cash resources for acquisitions. Mr Allan said he was seeking opportunities to extend Ocean's logistics business in the US, Europe and Southeast Asia.

The sale of OIL reinforces the shift in Ocean's business from asset-based to information technology-based services. In 1995, the company announced a £26 million restructuring of the group and last year managed to raise operating margins at MSAS to 3 per cent a year ahead of schedule.

Tempus, page 28

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Greenspan sends London and New York tumbling

THE mere threat to raise US interest rates by Alan Greenspan, Chairman of the Federal Reserve, was enough to throw financial markets on both sides of the Atlantic into a tail-spin.

He was again giving evidence to Congress and said that while he saw no sign of inflationary pressure, any delay in pre-empting it with interest rate rises would jeopardise economic growth.

His comments struck a note with those investors who expect the next rise in rates to signal the start of the long-waited correction in financial markets.

Within minutes of his comments, the Dow Jones industrial average had plunged almost 80 points. It also left the FT-SE 100 index nursing a fall of 74.1 at 4,258.1, having been 80.7 down at its worst.

London had opened lower and beat a steady retreat throughout the session. The expected drop in the inflation rate was not enough to counter the uncertain political outlook and the almost certain prospect of a rise in domestic rates after the general election.

But it seems that yesterday's sell-off had at last extended to the second liners with the FT-SE mid-250 losing 87.7 at 4,565.2.

Investors appear to be adopting a defensive stance ahead of the general election, which may account for the revival of interest in the food retailers. The latest AGB suvey showed **Tesco**, up 5p at 339p, gaining ground against **J Sainsbury**, its biggest rival, 1p firmer at 329½p. But **Safeway** is also gaining ground at the expense of Sainsbury and celebrated with a rise of 7½p at 353p. **Wm Morrison**, which came in with profits matching market expectations, finished 2½p firmer at 149½p.

The City gave the thumbs-up to full-year figures from **Guinness**, 15½p dearer at 501½p.

Securicor fell 21p to 294½p after shareholders were told at the annual meeting that write-offs totalling £18 million were to be made. But brokers say the setback for the shares should prove short-lived. Henderson Crosthwaite estimates the break-up value of the group to be worth at least 400p a share, including its 40 per cent stake in Cellnet, which is reckoned to carry a price-tag of at least £1 billion.

Ian Menzies-Gow, right, and Mark Pullen of Geest, down 2½p, who have raised profits 73 per cent after disposing of bananas

British Steel, up ¼p at 159¼p, is expected to announce today plans to axe around 5,000 jobs over the next five years. The group is accelerating its restructuring programme, having already made known its desire to shed up to 1,000 jobs a year. The group has blamed the strong pound for the move, claiming it has only added to the problems of operating in the depressed steel market.

The banks came under a cloud after Lehman Brothers, the US securities house, turned bearish of the sector after its recent strong run. Credit Lyonnais Laing, the broker, which is thought to have built up a large bull position in bank shares this year, may beg to differ, but prices ended the day sharply lower. **Barclays** fell 45p to £10.32½, **HSBC** was 39½p down to £14.75, **LLoyds TSB** dropped 22½p to 476½p, **Royal Bank of Scotland** was 21p off at 530p, **Abbey National** was 14p lower at 718p, **National Westminster** was 17p down at 686½p, and **Bank of Scotland** 13½p cheaper at 315½p. Even **Standard Chartered**, Lehman's favourite stock in the sector, finished 21p down at 827½p.

Worries about regulatory pressure dragged **Stagecoach** a further 17½p lower at 671p, stretching the loss over the past couple of days to 57p. **National Express** fell 9½p to 520½p after figures.

Brixton Estates is also blaming the strong pound for its misfortunes. Its net asset value has fallen by almost 4 per cent, while the shares fell 20½p to 182p.

News of difficult trading conditions which are expected to affect first-half results "significantly" left **Carisbrooke Shipping** down 10p at 70½p.

Vision Group tumbled 70p to 250p after warning that a "slippage" in implementation programmes that would affect second-half results. Profits in the first six months of the video conferencing specialist saw the group return to the black. But there was strong support for **Telspec**, with the price rising 30p to 227½p after reporting losses of £9 million. Shares of **London Bridge Software** made a solid debut on the big board after a placing by Henderson Crosthwaite at 200p. The price opened at 259p and touched a high for the day of 278½p before closing at 261½p, a premium of 61½p.

KBC Advanced Technology got off to a brisk start in first-time trading after a placing at 195p. The price opened at 243½p before closing at its best of the day with a rise of 52½p at 277½p.

Over on AIM, **Total Office Group** made a confident start with the shares opening at 152½p compared with the placing price of 145p. After dipping to 150½p, the price recovered to close at 152½p, a premium of 7½p.

The sale of its banana interest helped **Geest**, headed by Ian Menzies-Gow, chairman, and Mark Pullen, finance director, to boost profits last year by 73 per cent to £17.3 million. Action to stem losses in other parts of the business have also proved successful and now the group is expanding into other areas of the food market. The share ended down 2½p at 252½p.

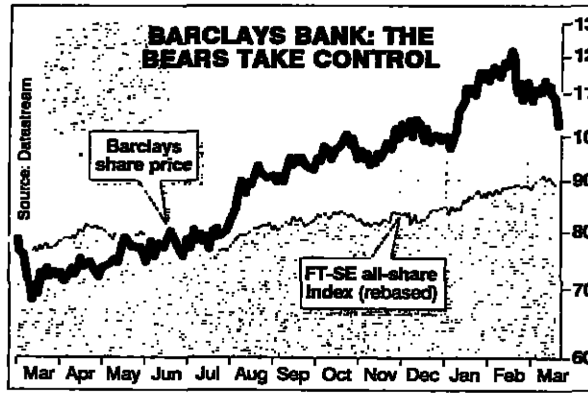
☐ **GILT-EDGED**: Gilts followed US Treasury bonds and German bunds lower. The drop in inflation in February and the latest money supply figures had little impact.

The June series of the long gilt finished £⅜ lower at £108 15/16 as a total of 82,000 contracts were completed.

Treasury 8 per cent 2015 closed £5/16 lower at £102⅜, while Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was £3/16 off at £102 13/32.

☐ **NEW YORK**: Technology shares rebounded even as the fear of an impending increase in interest rates sent the Dow Jones industrial average lower. By midday it was down 48.34 points at 6,829.34.

PizzaExpress is going from strength to strength with the price leaping 32½p to a high of 710½p. That compares with last year's low of 216p. The group is opening a further 20 cash generating outlets. Credit Lyonnais Laing and Kleinwort Benson, the brokers, are both buyers of the stock.



BARCLAYS BANK: THE BEARS TAKE CONTROL

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	6829.34 (-48.34)
S&P Composite	781.85 (-3.92)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	Closed
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	12472.33 (-179.09)
Amsterdam:	
EOE Index	710.31 (-24.73)
Sydney:	
AO	2391.3 (+6.1)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	3264.67 (-51.26)
Singapore:	
Straits	2095.43 (-25.13)
Brussels:	
General	11563.93 (-255.27)
Paris:	
CAC-40	2553.72 (-43.05)
Zurich:	
SKA Gen	932.50 (-16.20)
London:	
FT 30	2833.4 (-35.3)
FT 100	4258.1 (-74.1)
FTSE Mid 250	4565.2 (-87.7)
FTSE 350	2105.7 (-37.4)
FTSE Eurotrack 100	2121.04 (-19.99)
FT All-Share	2079.85 (-35.55)
FT Non Financials	2147.29 (-28.73)
FT Fixed Interest	118.05 (-0.05)
FT Govt Secs	93.88 (-0.19)
Bargains	65109
SEAQ Volume	1167.7m
US$	1.5940 (-0.0028)
German Mark	2.6886 (+0.0036)
Exchange Index	96.3 (Same)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.3762
£:SDR	1.1572
RPI	155.0 Feb (2.7%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	154.5 Feb (2.9%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Aortech	120½	...
Aurora Inv Trust	100	...
Birmingham City	45½	- 1
Cambridge Mini Res	14	...
Centrica (75½)	56¼	- 2
Core Group	301	...
Dobbies Garden	260	...
Donatantonio	71½	...
Energy Group (525)	466½	- 17
Glrovend Csh Sys	188½	...
Howle	31	...
KBC Advanced	247½	...
London Bridge Sftw	261½	...
M & G High Capital	9	...
M & G High Income	68½	...
M & G High Pckg	102	+ 2
M & G High Unit	80	+ 1½
Nord Anglo Eductn	143½	- 6
Psd Group	262½	- 1
River & Merc 1st UK	99½	- ½
Screen	5½	...
Technoplast	97½	- 13
Total Office Grp	152½	...
Usher of Trowbridge	120½	...
VFG	41½	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Grantchstr n/p (137)	36½	- 1½
PTS n/p (100)	14	- 2½
Partco n/p (300)	32½	- 1½

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Guinness	501½p (+15½p)
Siebe	1042p (+27½p)
PizzaExpress	710½p (+32p)
Racal Elect	297p (+12½p)
Ocean Gp	529½p (+20p)
Telspec	227½p (+30p)

FALLS:

Bank Scot	315½p (-24p)
Comm Union	641p (-37p)
GRE	277½p (-15½p)
Legal & Gen	386½p (-21½p)
Lloyds TSB	476½p (-22½p)
Cable & Wireless	489p (-20p)
BAT Ind	489p (-18½p)
Pru Corp	552p (-17½p)
P&O Dfd	630p (-28p)

Closing Prices Page 31

TEMPUS

Ocean catches the tide

OCEAN GROUP just had to sit back and wait. The frenetic pace of activity offshore in the Gulf of Mexico has created a shortage of rigs, barges and tenders, all to the benefit of oil service companies. OIL has 100 vessels, none in Tidewater's home patch in the Gulf of Mexico but the ships can be moved and the American buyer of OIL will be keen to get a foothold in West Africa. OIL has a big outpost on Bonny Island in Nigeria, convenient given the intense interest by the oil majors in the deepwater oil prospects off the Nigerian coast: likewise, OIL's presence in Brazil.

Ocean could have held out for more, but why bother? Assuming OIL's 1997 profits reach £24 million, the forward exit multiple is 19 times, an attractive price for a cyclical business which will need to spend heavily on ships just in time for the downturn.

The problem is how to invest the proceeds. Ocean wants to expand its international logistics business, MSAS. This is a far cry from the trucking and warehousing operations run by Salvesen or NFC. MSAS is an airfreight business that does not own a single plane, servicing high volume manufacturers such as Compaq, Intel, Kodak and Sony which need just-in-time delivery throughout the world. Margins are thin but Ocean has managed to raise its return on sales by a point to 3 percent and hopes to attain the 4 per cent earned by US competitors. It will get there through efficiency, consolidating freight and getting better prices from airlines. Small acquisitions will help to add scale to MSAS, but this business does not need capital and Ocean will need to find other reasons to hold on to all its cash.

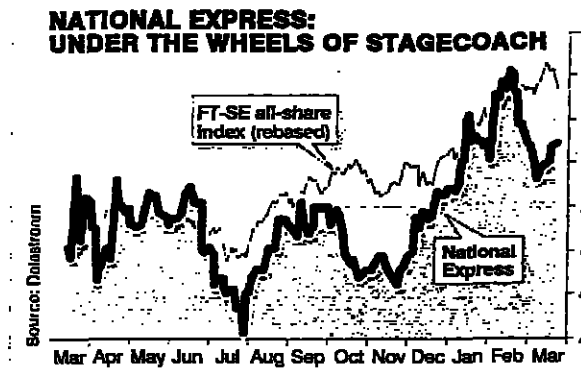
Nat Express

NATIONAL EXPRESS has been hit by some of the mud thrown at Stagecoach, its rowdy cousin and the pantomime villain of the sector. The fiasco at South West Trains shows what can happen to companies who get it wrong but National Express, by far the biggest of the train operators, should not be prejudged.

Firstly, Stagecoach runs one mainland franchise, to National Express' five. Secondly, while Stagecoach has run aground in its attempt to cut costs, National Express has succeded in axing some 20 per cent of staff from its rail franchises with barely a whisper from the unions.

The two companies have different strategies: National Express is looking for revenue growth and winning people away from the car, where Stagecoach is relying on lower costs to improve margins and profits. The growth strategy of National Express is controversial — rail traffic has been in long term decline. However, National Express is making money from the railways, while Stagecoach has burnt its fingers and won powerful enemies.

Politics may be important; National Express has the dubious honour of being Britain's most heavily subsidised company. It will receive about £500 million from the Exchequer next year, and the Labour commitment to public transport could be crucial to its growth strategy. A clean record, too, might be useful in protecting the subsidies.



NATIONAL EXPRESS: UNDER THE WHEELS OF STAGECOACH

Guinness

GUINNESS is so intimately linked with the ubiquitous stout that the company struggles to transfer the strength of its brand name to other beers. Valiant attempts have been made to expand, but the likes of Harp and Enigma. have barely succeeded in the UK market, let alone worldwide.

There are signs that the company has found a winner in Kilkenny, the cold-flow bitter. Languishing in pubs for almost ten years, the success of Bass's Caffreys has created a market for Irish bitter, and one that Guinness has quickly been able to exploit. Bass chose to sell Caffreys as an Irish Ale, allowing Guinness — which boasts a near monopoly on Irishness — an easy entry into the new market.

The success of Kilkenny allowed Tony Greener, chairman of Guinness, to sound positive yesterday. With spirits markets picking up around the world and the core Guinness beer products expanding quickly in new regions, Guinness finally seems to be in growth mode again.

Currency problems will restrict the increase in headline profits to a mere 2 per cent this year, although another share buyback could flatter the numbers. Guinness stands on an undemanding forward price earnings multiple of around 14 times, but it may be another year before the shares pick up steam.

APV

WHAT is to be done with APV? Years of restructuring have left the company smaller but still struggling with pitiful margins. A business upturn in October has been reversed with a 15 per cent fall in the order book in January and February. A Russian order could send it back up again but the buyer is still arranging funds.

APV's problem is that it sells its equipment to big, international food manufacturers like Unilever. In cost-cutting mode themselves, they can dictate prices. Resistance is futile because the buyer merely shifts the order to APV's competitors, GEA or Alfa-Laval. Logic suggests that consolidation is needed, but competition issues could be tricky and each party wants to be strong enough to lead any merger.

So the cost-cutting continues. APV should save another £11 million in the current year as the remaining restructuring provision is expensed. That boosted the shares, as did a pension credit of £8 million. A smaller workforce means that APV gets a pension holiday which should continue well into the next century.

A cynical stock market likes these little fillips, but APV needs growth in sales, not a windfall from redundancies.

Edited by Carl Mortished

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

Mar	1025 BID	May	1074-1072
May	1032-1031	Jul	1087-1086
Jul	1037-1036	Sep	1098 BID
Sep	1043-1042	Dec	1112-1110
Dec	1046-1045		
Mar	1064-1063		Volume: 9459

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Mar	1664-1650	Nov	1625-1620
May	1655 BID	Jan	1610 SLR
Jul	1650 SLR	Mar	1595-1570
Sep	1647-1640		Volume: 4330

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Dec	300.0-98.5
Spot: n/a		Mar	303.4-00.0
May	307.0-06.0	May	302.9-97.6
Aug	306.2-04.6	Jun	unq
Oct	302.4-01.0		Volume: 828

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on March 19

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	80.71	146.71	98.62
(+/-)	-4.42	-4.04	-0.30
Eng/Wales.	80.71	148.71	97.98
(+/-)	-4.42	-3.74	-0.57
(%)	+6.0	+2.0	+16.0
Scotland:	unq	143.16	102.14
(+/-)		-4.94	+0.82
(%)		-10.0	+38.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	19.60	-0.10
Brent 15 day (May)	20.35	-0.05
Brent 15 day (Jun)	20.20	-0.10
W Texas Intermediate (May)	21.85	-0.10
W Texas Intermediate (Jun)	21.70	-0.05

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	212 (+2)	214 (+3)
Gasoil EEC	177 (-2)	178 (-2)
3.5 Fuel Oil	86 (-1)	88 (-1)
Naphtha	195 (n/c)	200 (n/c)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Apr	173.00-73.25	Jul	176.25-76.50
May	174.50-74.75	Aug	177.50-77.75
Jun	175.25-75.50		Vol: 10801

BRENT (6.00pm)

May	20.37-20.39	Aug	19.91 BID
Jun	20.23-20.26	Sep	19.80 BID
Jul	20.12-20.13		Vol: 23473

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t)		LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)	
Mar	99.40	Mar	93.50
May	101.00	May	94.00
Jul	103.25	Sep	92.75
Sep	94.75	Nov	94.75
Nov	96.75	Jan	96.75
	Volume: 613		Volume: 19

LIFFE POTATO (£/t)	Open	Close
Apr	52.6	52.0
May	57.0	57.0
Jun	unq	67.0
		Volume: 62

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)

Apr 81.00-81.50

LIFFE BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Mar 97	1520	1520	1520
Apr 97	1656	1606	1635
May 97	1600	1595	1600
Jul 97	1335	1330	1335

Vol: 389 lots Open interest: 3215

Index 1503 +10

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day)	Cash	3mth	Rudolf Wolff Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2363.0-2364.0	2331.5-2332.5	1361375
Lead ($/tonne)	695.00-696.00	692.00-693.00	198650
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1280.0-1281.0	1302.0-1302.5	624925
Tin ($/tonne)	5990.0-6000.0	6010.0-6015.0	20125
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1625.0-1626.0	1658.0-1659.0	1794800
Nickel ($/tonne)	7875.0-7880.0	7980.0-7990.0	103734

LIFFE OPTIONS

Series		Calls Apr	Jul	Oct	Puts Apr	Jul	Oct
Alld Dom	420	31½	39	46½	2	12½	16½
(*449)	460	7	17	26½	18	33	36½
ASDA	100	9½	12½	14	0½	2	4½
(*108½)	110	3	6½	8½	3½	6	6
Boots	650	42	55	62	2½	14½	19½
(*687)	700	10	25	34½	20½	37½	43½
Br Airways	600	39	51½	62½	3½	15½	21½
(*633½)	650	8½	24	37	23	40	46
BP	700	21½	41½	52	11	29½	36½
(*706)	750	4½	20	30	45	57	64½
Br Steel	140	20	22½	23	0	4	5½
(*159½)	160	4	9	10	5	12½	14½
C & W	460	36½	50	59	5	16	20
(*492)	500	11½	27½	37½	17	33	38½
CU	650	25	52½	75½	16½	40	62½
(*654)	700	10½	31	54	49	69	91½
ICI	700	25½	45	55	9	30	36½
(*713)	750	7	22	31	39	47½	57½
Land Sec	750	19½	33	39½	7½	26	31
(*759)	800	2	11	16½	41	60	63½
M & S	460	16	27	35½	7	18½	21½
(*468)	500	2½	10½	18	33	41	45½
Nat West	650	45	67	72½	2½	16½	25
(*689)	700	13½	38	47	22½	37½	50½
Safeway plc	330	26½	33½	38	1½	10½	14
(*352½)	360	7½	16½	23	12½	26	29½
Sainsbury	300	31½	36	40½	0½	6½	9
(*329½)	330	9½	17	23	8½	19	21½
Shell	1050	36½	52½	65½	21½	38	49½
(*1073½)	1100	11½	30½	42	54½	66	78
Smkl Bch	900	28	54	74	21	43½	53
(*901½)	950	9½	33	51½	53	72½	81
Storehse	300	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	330	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trafalgar	50	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	60	—	—	—	—	—	—
Zeneca	1700	81	132	177	22½	55½	74
(*1751)	1800	31	82½	119½	69½	104	121
Series		Apr	Jul	Oct	Apr	Jul	Oct
BAT Ind	460	37½	54	61½	4	14½	25
(*492)	500	12½	32	40	19	32	44½
Vodafone	260	18	28½	34½	3½	11	15
(*274)	280	7	18	24½	12½	20½	24½
Series		May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
Grnd Met	460	41½	51½	58½	3½	10	13½
(*494)	500	15	26½	35½	17	26	30
Ladbroke	220	13	20	24½	5	8½	11½
(*226½)	240	4½	11	14½	16	19	22
Utd Bisc	220	17½	23½	25	5½	8½	13
(*237½)	240	5½	13½	17	15½	18½	23

March 20, 1997 Tot: 68599 Call: 25054 Put: 43545 FTSE Call: 4604 Put: 17704

*Underlying security price.

Series		Calls Apr	Jul	Oct	Puts Apr	Jul	Oct
BAA	500	17½	30½	37	6½	19	22½
(*508)	550	1½	9½	15½	42	50	52½
Thames W.	650	19½	42	46	15½	44	46
(*654)	700	4	22	26	48½	76½	78
Series		May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
BTR	240	22½	29	32½	3½	7	9
(*257½)	260	10	16½	20½	10½	14½	17½
Br Aero	1300	69	104½	127½	28	44	56½
(*1327½)	1350	42½	78	101	51½	67	79
Br Telcm	420	44	53	59	3½	12½	14½
(*458)	460	16½	27½	30	15	30½	32
Cadbury	500	43½	57	62	6	12	15½
(*533½)	550	14½	28	35	26½	33	37
Guinness	500	16½	27	33½	22	27½	30
(*501½)	550	3½	10½	15½	62½	63½	64½
GEC	360	25	32½	37	5½	14½	17½
(*376)	390	9	16½	22	19	30½	33
Hanson	300	16	23½	28	10	13½	19
(*304)	330	4½	10½	14½	29	31	36
LASMO	240	18	24½	30	9½	15½	14
(*248)	260	10	15½	20	21	23	24½
LucasVarity	180	22	27	30	3	4½	8
(*199)	200	9	15½	18½	10½	12½	17
Pilkington	130	11½	14	—	4	9	—
(*135½)	140	6	11	—	8½	13	—
Prudential	550	17½	33½	42½	25	33½	40
(*554)	600	5½	15½	23½	62	67	71½
Redland	360	17	23½	31½	19½	26½	30
(*362½)	390	5½	12½	20	41½	46½	49½
R-Royce	220	17	26	30	7	12	14
(*232)	240	7	16	20	17½	22½	24
Tesco	330	17	24½	30½	11	15½	19½
(*339)	360	4	12	17½	30	33½	36½
Williams	330	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	360	—	—	—	—	—	—

FTSE INDEX (*4263)

	4150	4200	4250	4300	4350	4400
Calls						
Mar	113	63	21	1½	1	1
Apr	140	103	72	46	25	12½
May	177½	143	111½	83½	60	42
Jun	207½	176	144	115½	91	68½
Dec	—	292½	—	233½	—	183½
Puts						
Mar	1	2	10½	42½	92	142
Apr	31½	42½	62½	87	117	155
May	59½	74½	92½	114½	142	174½
Jun	81½	99	116	139	165½	193
Dec	—	163	—	204½	—	252½

Series		Calls Apr	Jul	Oct	Puts Apr	Jul	Oct
Abby Nat	700	31½	56½	69	10	26	35
(*719)	750	8½	32½	44	36½	52	60½
Amstrad	140	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	160	—	—	—	—	—	—
Barclays	1000	46½	81½	96	9½	23½	42
(*1035)	1050	17	53½	68½	28	45	64½
Natl Pwr	450	26½	—	—	5	—	—
(*472)	500	3½	20½	20½	30½	50½	56½
Series		Apr	Jul	Oct	Apr	Jul	Oct
Glaxo W	1050	46	82½	95½	12	30	48
(*1083½)	1100	19½	54½	69½	31	52½	71
HSBC	1450	55½	110	136½	21½	58½	81½
(*1476)	1500	29½	84	110	45	82½	104½
Reuter	600	25	51	64½	14	24	26
(*608½)	650	6½	28	41	45	49½	52
Royal & Sun	431	20	—	—	5½	—	—
(*444)	460	6	19½	29	20	28	35
Series		May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
Blue Circ	390	28½	35½	42	9	14½	20½
(*412½)	420	11	21	27½	24½	30	35½
Series		May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
Kingfishr	650	43½	57	67½	12	21½	27½
(*690)	700	14	31	42	37½	45½	51½
Series		Mar	Jun		Mar	Jun	
Br Gas	220	16	—	—	13	—	—
(*223)	240	6½	—	—	27½	—	—
Series		Mar	Jun	Sep	Mar	Jun	Sep
Dixons	500	34	44	54	18	26½	34
(*509½)	550	13	22	32	47	57	62
EMI Group	1100	73½	99	110	31½	52½	60
(*1129)	1150	47	72½	83½	54	76	84
Tarmac	90	7	10	11	4½	5	7½
(*93½)	100	3	6	7	11	11	13½
Hillsdown	180	9	11	—	9½	11	—
(*184)	200	1½	4	—	25	25½	—
Lonrho	140	13	16½	19½	5	7½	9
(*147½)	160	4	7½	11	16	18½	20
Sears	90	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	100	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thorn EMI	1500	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	1600	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tomkins	260	20	24½	27½	7½	13½	15½
(*269)	280	10	14½	18	17	24	26½
Lloyds TSB	460	35½	46	55½	12½	20½	25
(*477)	500	15½	26½	36	32½	41	45½
Scot Pwr	330	24	30	33	9½	16	18½
(*341)	360	9½	15	18½	25½	33	35½
Unilever	1500	109	141	159	15	26	33
(*1598½)	1600	44½	80	97	54	65½	72½

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt Previous open interest: 200416	Mar 97	109-20	109-24	109-17	109-15	1344
	Jun 97	109-02	109-15	108-26	108-30	83414
German Govt Bond (Bund) Previous open interest: 239226	Jun 97	99.70	99.86	99.52	99.67	215965
	Sep 97	98.91	98.91	98.91	98.81	42
Italian Govt Bond (BTP) Previous open interest: 108381	Jun 97	124.50	125.54	124.38	125.11	66549
	Sep 97	124.65	124.70	124.65	125.16	375
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	Jun 97	125.96	125.97	125.81	125.93	465
	Sep 97				124.52	0
Three Mth Sterling	Jun 97	93.32	93.34	93.29	93.31	40510
	Sep 97	93.04	93.09	92.99	93.03	36189
Previous open interest: 437242	Dec 97	92.83	92.86	92.76	92.78	35165
Three Mth Euromark Previous open interest: 1175116	Jun 97	96.66	96.69	96.66	96.68	24533
	Sep 97	96.55	96.58	96.54	96.57	24387
Three Mth Eurolira Previous open interest: 246250	Jun 97	92.72	92.87	92.69	92.80	33532
	Sep 97	92.99	93.15	92.94	93.07	20492
Three Mth Euroyen	Sep 97	99.19	99.19	99.19	99.19	50
	Dec 97	99.05	99.05	99.04	99.04	75
Three Mth Euroswiss Previous open interest: 86341	Jun 97	98.09	98.15	98.07	98.12	8369
	Sep 97	98.06	98.11	98.03	98.07	6546
Three Mth ECU Previous open interest: 30309	Jun 97	95.64	95.67	95.64	95.65	1093
	Sep 97	95.59	95.60	95.56	95.59	359
FTSE 100 Previous open interest: 76822	Mar 97	4327.0	4327.0	4245.0	4260.0	24874
	Jun 97	4347.0	4347.0	4255.0	4277.0	22755

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6 Finance Hse 6¾.

Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 5⅞ Low 5⅝ Week fixed: 6 1/16

Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 5 15/16 ; 3 mth 5 15/16 . Sell: 2 mth 5⅞ ; 3 mth: 5⅞ .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	6-5 15/16	6 1/16-6	6⅛-6 1/16	6⅜-6 11/32	
Sterling Money Rates:	6 1/16-6 1/32	6⅛-6 1/16	6 3/16-6⅛	6⅜-6 11/32	6 13/16-6¾
Interbank:	6 1/32-6 1/32	6⅛-6 1/16	6 3/16-6⅛	6½-6 11/32	6 13/16-6¾

Overnight: open 5 15/16, close 5⅝ .

Local Authority Deps:	6	n/a	6⅛	6½	6¾
Sterling CDs:	6 1/16-6 1/32	6⅛-6 1/16	6 3/16-6⅛	6 13/32-6 11/32	6¾-6 11/16
Dollar CDs:	5.50	n/a	5.62	5.77	6.10
Building Society CDs:	6 1/16-6 1/32	6⅛-6 1/16	6 3/16-6⅛	6⅜-6 5/16	6¾-6 11/16

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5⅜-5	5⅜-5¼	5½-5⅜	5 11/16-5 9/16	5-4
Deutschemark:	3¼-3	3¼-3⅛	3¼-3⅛	3⅜-3¼	3¼-2⅞
French Franc:	3 5/16-3 3/16	3⅜-3¼	3½-3⅜	3⅝-3½	3¼-2⅞
Swiss Franc:	2⅛-1⅞	2 1/16-1 15/16	1 15/16-1 13/16	1 15/16-1 13/16	2⅛-1⅞
Yen:	½-⅜	⅝-½	⅝-½	⅝-½	1-par

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $352.20-352.50 **Close:** $351.00-351.50 **High:** $353.40-353.90 **Low:** $350.00-350.50 **AM:** $352.70 **PM:** $352.00

Krugerrand: $350.75-353.75 (£219.75-221.75)

Platinum: $379.75 (£237.55) **Silver:** $5.19 (£3.255) **Palladium:** $151.25 (£94.60)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for March 20	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	3.0034-3.0289	3.0246-3.0289	⅝-½pr	2⅜-2¼pr
Brussels	55.030-55.520	55.400-55.500	14-9pr	40-33pr
Copenhagen	10.177-10.256	10.244-10.252	⅞-⅛pr	⅞-⅛pr
Dublin	1.0143-1.0196	1.0178-1.0196	5-1pr	17-10pr
Frankfurt	2.6670-2.6899	2.6878-2.6899	⅝-½pr	2-1¾pr
Lisbon	268.67-270.85	270.56-270.85	⅛-⅛ds	⅛-⅛ds
Madrid	226.59-228.34	228.07-228.34	7-3pr	30-12pr
Milan	2677.7-2696.7	2693.8-2696.7	25-40ds	74-96ds
Montreal	2.1898-2.1983	2.1963-2.1983	0.59-0.53pr	1.16-1.08pr
New York	1.5936-1.5962	1.5938-1.5946	0.925-0.725pr	0.283-0.252pr
Oslo	10.732-10.781	10.767-10.775	⅝-⅛pr	⅞-⅛pr
Paris	8.9980-9.0760	9.0671-9.0749	2⅛-2pr	6⅛-6⅝pr
Stockholm	12.127-12.230	12.196-12.214	⅛-⅝pr	⅛-⅛pr
Tokyo	195.30-196.91	196.65-196.91	⅝-⅛pr	2⅛-2⅛pr
Vienna	18.768-18.932	18.916-18.932	⅞-⅛pr	1⅞-1⅛pr
Zurich	2.2828-2.3064	2.3037-2.3064	⅝-⅛pr	2⅝-2⅛pr

Source: Extel *Premium - pr. Discount - ds.*

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.2675-1.2683
Austria	11.85-11.86
Belgium (Com)	34.77-34.78
Canada	1.3760-1.3765
Denmark	6.4235-6.4265
France	5.6870-5.6895
Germany	1.6846-1.6851
Hong Kong	7.7460-7.7470
Ireland	1.5659-1.5709
Italy	1687.5-1687.8
Japan	123.00-123.05
Malaysia	2.4758-2.4768
Netherlands	1.8967-1.8972
Norway	6.7515-6.7575
Portugal	169.61-169.71
Singapore	1.4461-1.4468
Spain	143.00-143.10
Sweden	7.6415-7.6490
Switzerland	1.4422-1.4432

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.5953-1.5970
Australia dollar	2.0218-2.0244
Bahrain dinar	0.5980-0.6100
Brazil real*	1.6867-1.6910
China yuan	13.125-13.425
Cyprus pound	0.8025-0.8125
Finland markka	8.0475-8.1635
Greece drachma	421.25-428.25
Hong Kong dollar	12.3572-12.3627
India rupee	57.04-58.00
Indonesia rupiah	3822.0-3890.6
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4810-0.4910
Malaysia ringgit	3.9492-3.9520
New Zealand dollar	2.3043-2.3067
Pakistan rupee	63.75 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.7700-5.9940
Singapore dollar	2.3068-2.3091
S Africa rand (com)	7.0560-7.1580
U A E dirham	5.8200-5.9440

*Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank*

FTSE VOLUMES

3I	2,200	Land Secs	2,800
ASDA Gp	14,500	Legal & Gn	3,500
Abbey Ntl	4,600	Lloyds TSB	18,500
Allied Dom	3,000	LucasVarity	10,700
Argos	1,700	Marks Spr	7,600
AB Foods	564	MAM	1,100
BAA	3,000	NatWst Bk	7,900
BAT Inds	12,200	Nat Grid	8,600
BG	12,400	Nat Power	5,300
BOC	376	Next	3,700
BP	6,300	Orange	1,100
BSkyB	4,000	P & O	3,600
BTR	10,600	Pearson	1,600
BT	21,200	PowerGen	2,300
Bk of Scot	7,000	Prudential	6,200
Barclays	7,300	RMC	1,100
Bass	1,500	RTZ	2,200
Blue Circle	3,300	Railtrack	6,200
Boots	2,800	Rank Group	2,700
BAe	1,900	Reckitt Col	9,900
BA	2,200	Reed Intl	1,600
Brit Steel	12,800	Rentkl Inl	10,800
Burmah Cstl	2,100	Reuters	4,700
Burton	6,200	Rolls Royce	7,100
Cable Wire	6,200	Royal & Sun	6,700
Cadbury	5,600	Royal Bk Sct	823
Carlton Cms	804	Safeway	5,600
Centrica	21,900	Sainsbury	4,700
Cm Union	2,800	Schroders	234
Dixons	2,100	Scot & New	1,500
EMI	2,000	Scot Power	3,200
Energy Gp	2,900	Svrn Trent	1,100
Enterpr Oil	1,000	Shell Trans	7,300
GKN	1,600	Siebe	3,400
GRE	3,800	SmKl Bch	3,200
GUS	2,500	Smith Nph	2,300
Gen Acc	1,400	Smiths Inds	628
Gen Elec	4,400	Std Chartd	2,500
Glaxo Well	5,900	TI Gp	1,400
Granada	2,400	Tate & Lyle	2,300
Grand Met	10,100	Tesco	5,300
Guinness	20,800	Thames W	2,800
HSBC	4,700	Tomkins	979
Hanson	5,900	Unilever	1,700
Hays	2,800	Utd Utilities	2,100
ICI	2,700	Utd News	2,100
Imp Tob	3,000	Vodafone	6,900
Kingfisher	4,600	Whitbread	384
LASMO	522	Wolseley	935
Ladbroke	3,200	Zeneca	2,100

WALL STREET

	Mar 20 midday	Mar 19 close
AMP Inc	36¼	36⅛
AMR Corp	85¼	84⅝
ASA	35¼	35½
AT & T	34⅞	35
Abbott Labs	58⅛	58⅜
Advanced Micro	39⅝	39⅝
Aetna Life	87⅜	87⅛
Ahmanson (HF)	39½	39⅛
Air Prod & Chem	72½	72¼
AirTouch Comm	24½	24⅛
Alberto-Culver B	27⅛	27⅛
Albertson's	34⅝	35¼
Alcan Alumnm	36⅝	36½
Allied Signal	72⅞	72⅝
Alum Co of Am	73⅛	73⅛
Amax Gold Inc	7¼	7¼
Amerada Hess	53⅝	53⅜
Amer Brands	50⅝	51¼
Amer El Power	40⅝	41
Amer Express	64⅝	63⅝
Amer Genl Corp	41¼	41⅛
Amer Home Pr	63¼	64¼
Amer Intl	123⅝	124⅛
Amer Stores	44⅝	44⅛
Amer Standard	45	45
Ameritech	61	61¼
Amoco	88	88⅛
Anheuser-Busch	44⅛	44½
Apple Computer	15⅛	16⅛
Archer Daniels	17⅛	17⅛
Armco	3½	3⅞
Armstrng Wrld	70⅛	70½
Asarco	29⅞	30⅛
Atl Richfield	128⅛	127⅛
Auto Data Pro	42⅞	42⅝
Avery Dennison	42⅛	43⅝
Avon Products	55½	55⅝
Baker Hughes	39⅝	39⅛
Baltim Gas & El	26⅝	27
Banc One	43	43⅛
BankAmerica	110⅝	111⅛
Bank of NY	38⅜	38⅛
Bankers Tr NY	91	90⅛
Barnett Banks	48⅛	48
Bausch & Lomb	39	39⅛
Baxter Intl	45⅛	46⅛
Bectn Dicknsn	47⅛	47⅛
Bell Atlantic	63⅜	63⅛
Bell Industries	17⅛	17⅛
BellSouth	43⅝	43⅛
Black & Decker	34⅜	34⅛
Block (H&R)	29⅛	29⅜
Boeing	105	104
Boise Cascade	32⅞	32⅛
Bristol Myrs Sq	66⅛	66⅝
Browning Ferris	29⅜	29⅜
Brunswick	28⅞	28⅛
Burlington Nthn	79⅝	78⅜
CMS Energy Corp	32⅛	32⅛
CNA Financial	114	114
CPC Intl	83	83⅛
CSX	48⅛	48
Campbell Soup	47⅛	47⅛
Can Pacific	23⅝	24⅛
Carolina Pwr	36½	36⅛
Caterpillar	79⅛	80⅛
Central & SW	22⅛	22⅛
Champion Intl	44⅛	44⅝
Chase Manhat	102⅝	101⅛
Chevron Corp	67⅛	67⅛
Chrysler	29½	29⅛
Chubb Corp	57⅛	58⅜
Cigna Corp	152	153⅛
Citicorp	116	116⅛
Clorox	117⅛	118⅛
Coastal Corp	46⅛	47
Coca Cola	59⅛	59⅝
Coca Cola Ent	61⅜	62
Colgate-Palm	107⅛	107⅛
Columbia Gas	60⅞	60⅛
ColumbiaHCA	40⅛	42⅛
Compaq Comp	73	72
Comp Ass Int	38⅛	38
Conagra	55⅛	56⅞
Conrail	112⅛	112⅛
Cons Edison	30⅝	30⅛
Cons Nat Gas	51⅛	51
Cooper Inds	45⅛	46
Corestates	51	51⅛
Corning Inc	44⅛	44⅛
Crown Cork	52½	53⅛
Dana Corp	32	32⅛
Dayton Hudson	43⅛	43⅛
Deere	44⅞	44½
Delta Air Lines	83⅛	84½
Deluxe Corp	31⅛	32
Digital Equip	28⅛	27½
Dillard Dept St	31⅛	31⅛
Disney (Walt)	74⅛	75
Dominion Res	38⅛	37⅞
Donelley (RR)	33⅛	32⅝
Dover Corp	53	53⅛
Dow Chemical	82⅞	83⅛
Dow Jones	42⅛	42⅛
Dresser	30⅛	31⅛
Duke Power	43⅛	44
Dun & Brdstreet	26⅛	26⅛
Du Pont	109⅛	109⅛
Eastman Chem	54⅜	54⅛
Eastman Kodak	86⅞	87
Eaton Corp	73⅛	73⅜
Edison Int	21⅛	21⅛
Elect Data Sys	40⅝	41⅛
Emerson Elec	48⅝	49⅛
Engelhard Corp	22⅛	22⅛
Enron Corp	39⅝	39⅝
Entergy	25⅛	25½
Ethyl Corp	8⅛	8⅛
Exxon	101⅛	101⅛
FMC Corp	64⅛	65
FPL Group	45	44⅛
Federal Express	54⅛	54⅛
First Bk Sys	75⅝	78⅛
First Union Rlty	13⅛	13⅛
Fleet Finl Grp	59⅛	60⅜
Fluor Corp	54⅜	54⅜
Ford Motor	31⅛	31⅛
GTE Corp	46⅛	46½
Gannett	86⅛	85⅛
Gap Inc Del	34⅛	34⅛
Gencorp	19	19
Gen Dynamics	67⅛	67⅛
Gen Electric	103	103½
Gen Mills	61⅛	61⅛
Gen Motors	55⅛	56⅛
Gen Reinsurance	166⅛	168½
Gen Signal	39⅛	40
Genuine Parts	47⅛	47⅛
Georgia Pac	76⅜	77
Gillette	77½	78
Glaxo Welle ADR	34⅛	34⅛
Goodrich (BF)	38⅛	38⅛
Goodyear Tire	54	54½
Grt Atl Pac Tea	27⅜	28
Great Wstn Fin	44⅛	44⅛
Halliburton	69⅝	69⅛
Harcourt General	46⅛	46⅜
Heinz (HJ)	41	41⅛
Hercules	43⅛	44
Hershey Foods	51⅛	51⅛
Hewlett Packard	56	55⅝
Hilton Hotels	25⅛	25⅛
Home Depot	57⅜	57⅛
Homestake Mng	15⅛	15⅛
Honeywell	70⅛	70⅝
Household Intl	92⅜	93⅛
Houston Inds	20⅞	21⅛
Humana	21⅛	21⅛
ITT Corp	59⅝	59⅛
Ikon Office	35⅛	35⅛
Illinois Tool	90⅛	90⅛
Illinova	23½	23⅛
INCO	35⅛	35⅛
Ingersoll Rand	46⅜	47
Inland Steel	19⅛	19⅛
Intel Corp	132½	133⅛
IBM	138⅛	138
Intl Flav & Fr	46	46½
Intl Paper	42	42⅛
James River Va	32⅛	32½
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	57⅛	57⅛
Kellogg	67⅛	67⅛
Kerr-McGee	64½	64⅛
Kimberly-Clark	104⅜	105⅛
Kmart	12⅝	12
Knight-Ridder	41⅛	41⅛
Lilly (Eli)	86⅛	86⅜
Limited Inc	19⅛	19⅛
Lincoln Nat	57⅛	58⅛
Litton	40⅞	40⅝
Liz Claiborne	44⅜	44⅛
Lockheed Martin	83⅛	83⅛
Louisiana Pac	21⅛	21⅛
MCI Comm	38⅛	38⅛
Manpower Inc	38⅛	36⅛
Marriott Int	50⅛	50⅛
Marsh & McLnn	122	123⅛
Masco Corp	35⅛	36⅛
May Dept St	49⅛	49⅛
Maytag Corp	21⅜	21⅛
McDonalds	47	47⅛
McDonnell D	65	64⅛
McGraw Hill	50⅛	50⅝
Mead Corp	57⅝	57⅛
Medtronic	62⅛	64
Mellon Bk	77⅛	78⅛
Merck Inc	91⅛	91⅛
Merrill Lynch	91⅛	91⅛
Microsoft	95 15/16	96⅛
Minnesota Mine	88⅜	88⅛
Mobil Corp	132⅝	132⅛
Monsanto	41⅛	41⅛
Morgan (JP)	104⅛	106⅛
Motorola Inc	55⅝	54⅛
Natl Semi	26⅛	26⅛
Natl Service Ind	38⅛	38⅛
Navistar Int	9⅛	9⅛
NY Times A	40⅛	44⅛
Newmont Mng	43	43½
Niag Mohawk	8⅛	8⅛
Nike B	66⅛	66⅛
NL Industries	11	11
Noram Energy	14⅛	14⅛
Nordstrom	37⅛	37⅛
Norfolk Sthrn	91⅛	92⅛
Nthn State Pwr	47⅛	47⅛
Norwest Corp	48⅛	48⅛
Nynex Corp	47⅛	47⅛
Occidental Pet	24⅛	24⅛
Ohio Edison	21⅛	21⅛
Oracle	39⅝	39⅝
Oryx Energy Co	19	19
Overseas Ship	16 15/16	16⅛
Owens Corning	41⅛	41⅛
PHH Corp	47⅛	47⅜
PPG Industries	55⅛	56⅜
PNC Bank	42½	42⅛
PP&L Res	20⅝	20⅝
Paccar Inc	68⅛	69⅝
Pacificorp	20⅛	20⅝
Pac Enterprises	30½	30⅝
Pac Telesis	38⅛	39⅝
Pall Corp	24⅛	24⅝
Parker Hannifin	44⅛	44⅝
Peco Energy	20⅞	20½
Penney (JC)	49⅝	49⅝
Pennzoil	51⅛	51⅜
Pepsico	32⅜	32
Pfizer	90⅞	91⅛
Pharm & Upjhn	36⅝	37⅝
Phelps Dodge	75½	76½
Philip Morris	117	122
Phillips Pet	41⅛	41⅛
Pitney Bowes	58⅛	58⅝
Polaroid	42⅛	42⅝
Procter & Gmbl	121⅛	122⅛
Providian	55⅛	56⅛
Pub Serv E & G	26⅛	26⅝
Quaker Oats	37	37⅛
Ralston Purina	84⅜	84⅝
Raychem Corp	86	86⅛
Raytheon	46½	47⅝
Reebok Intl	49	48⅝
Reynolds Metals	63⅛	63⅛
Rockwell Intl	68⅜	68⅛
Rohm & Haas	78	78⅛
Royal Dutch	173⅛	176⅛
Rubbermaid	24	24⅛
SBC Comms	53⅛	54⅛
Safeco Corp	39⅞	40⅝
St Paul's Cos	68⅛	69
Salomon Inc	53⅝	53⅛
Sara Lee Corp	41⅜	42
Schering Plough	78⅛	79⅛
Schlumberger	110⅝	110⅝
Seagram	39	39
Sears Roebuck	52	53⅛
Shell Trans	103⅝	104
Sherwin Wilms	55⅝	55⅛
Skyline Corp	23⅛	23⅛
Snap-On-Tools	40⅛	40⅛
Southern Co	21⅛	21⅛
Sprint Corp	46⅜	45⅝
Stanley Works	39	39⅝
Sun Company	26⅜	27
Sun Microsys	27½	26⅛
Suntrust	50⅛	50⅝
Supervalu	29⅝	30
Sysco Corp	34	34⅛
TRW Inc	53⅜	54
TCC Inds	1⅛	1⅛
Tandem Comp	11⅜	11⅛
Tandy Corp	51⅜	51½
Temple Inland	54⅜	55⅜
Tenneco	38⅜	39
Texaco	100⅛	101⅛
Texas Inst	76⅜	76
Texas Utilities	35⅛	35⅛
Textron	102	101⅛
Time Warner	43⅛	43⅝
Times-Mirror A	56⅞	57⅛
Timken	53⅛	54
Torchmark	58⅜	58⅛
Toys R Us	28⅜	28⅛
Transamerica	90⅛	90⅝
Travelers	51⅜	52⅜
Tribune	40⅛	39⅝
Tyco Int	58⅛	58⅛
UST Inc	27½	28⅜
UAL	67⅛	68⅛
US Inds	37⅛	37⅛
US West Comm	33⅜	33⅛
US West Media	18⅜	18⅝
USAirways Group	24⅛	25⅛
USX Marathon	26⅛	26⅛
Unicom	20⅝	20⅛
Unilever NV	184⅝	188⅝
Union Camp	48⅜	48⅝
Union Carbide	47⅛	47⅝
Union Pacific	59⅝	59⅝
Unisys Corp	6⅜	6⅜
USF&G Corp	21⅜	21⅜
US Life	47⅛	47⅝
United Tech	75½	76⅛
Unocal Corp	38⅜	38⅛
VF Corp	68⅜	68½
WMX Tech	31⅜	31⅜
Wal-Mart Stores	29⅝	29⅝
Warner-Lambert	80⅜	87⅜
Wells Fargo	298½	299⅛
Westinghouse El	18⅜	18⅝
Weyerhaeuser	47⅛	48⅜
Whirlpool	50⅝	50½
Whitman	24⅛	24⅜
Winn Dixie	32⅜	32⅛
Woolworth	23⅝	23⅛
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	98⅛	99⅜
Xerox	60	59⅝
Yellow Corp	16⅜	16⅝

هكذا من الأصل

THE TIMES

CITY DIARY

Losing nothing in translation

NERVES are frayed at Norwich Union, awaiting approval for its £5 billion flotation from regulators abroad. Documents have been sent to about 120 countries, but the Afghan regulator has yet to reply. Allan Bridgewater, chief executive, will be nibbling his nails until he hears from the Portuguese authorities. Originally, a request was put in for documents to be translated into the local lingo and sent to the 70 resident policyholders in question. Never mind the fact that they are all sun-loving ex-pats.

Just the job

A DOUBLE celebration for Jeremy Tigue who is to take the reins at Foreign & Colonial, and walk up the aisle in the same year.

The 37-year-old Oxford graduate, who was yesterday hailed as the successor to Michael Hart, proposed in January. Enigmatically referred to as "Ruth", his wife works as a physiotherapist based in Cardiff. "I'm sick of the M4," sighs Tigue, who has persuaded his love to set up home in the capital after their wedding in Wales this October. "When people congratulate me, I have to ask them what for, and some can get quite upset," he says.

Fool's gold

MORE from *Food For Thought*, the collection of eating habits from captains of industry, published in aid of Centrepoint. This time it's over to Peter Freeman, joint chief executive of Argent, the property company, who shares with readers a favourite recipe for courgette soufflé. "Years ago — before the food and booze boom — my ambition was to have a restaurant," writes Freeman, who claims to feel almost as at home in the kitchen as he does in the boardroom. "Sadly, I was sidetracked by the fool's gold of the property industry."

Freeman: sidetracked

Tapped for cash

WATER industry staff will be wearing blue today, but not as a sign of their political allegiance. To raise money for WaterAid, thousands of employees are being encouraged to pay £1 each to don blue outfits for the international water charity. The event is expected to raise about £15,000 for safe water and sanitation projects in developing countries.

Sporting agents

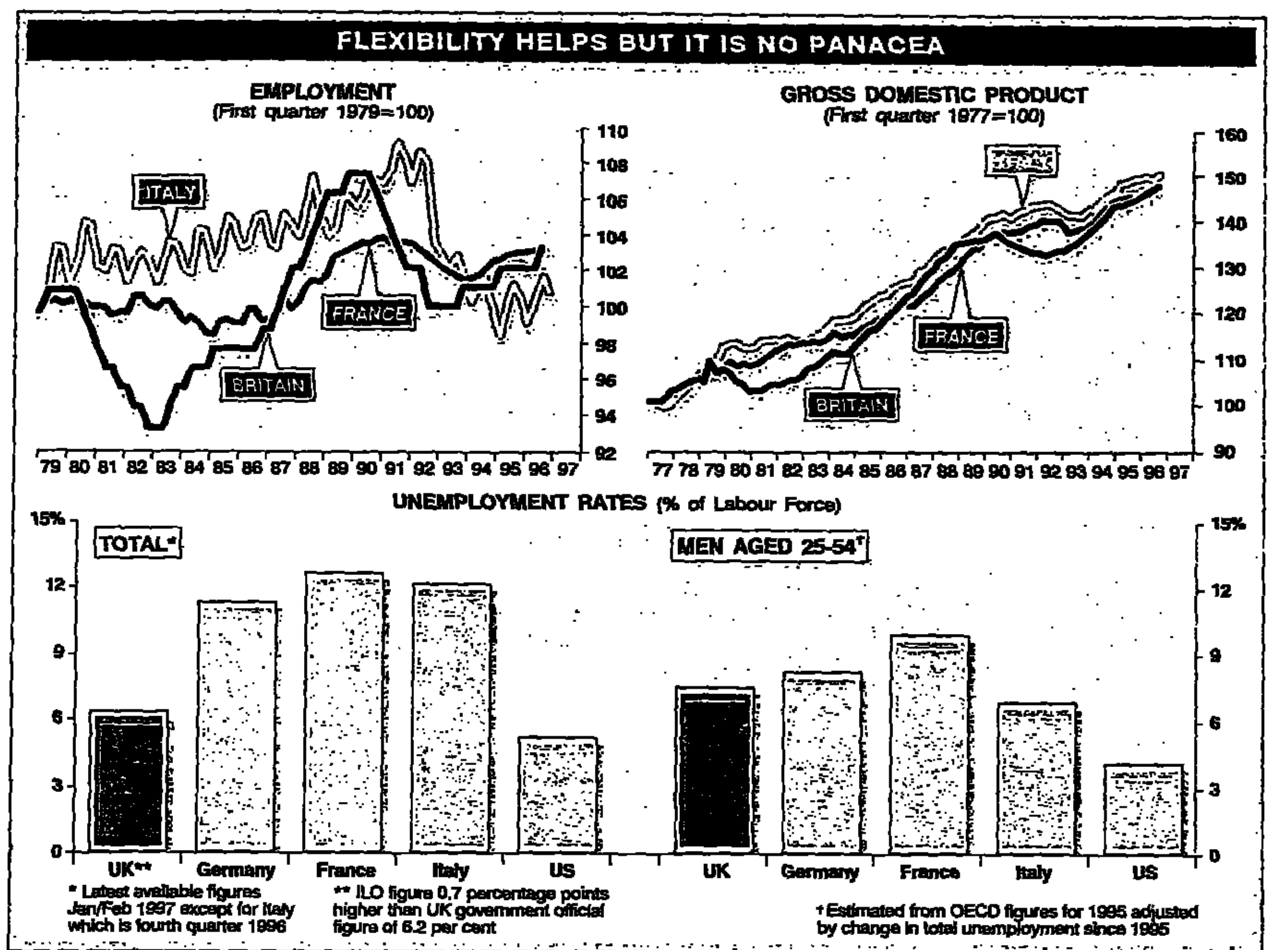
THE first Lloyd's members' agents merger this year, Kiln Cotesworth and Stewart, will this week become the third-largest members' agent by number of names. Adrian Graves, chief executive of the new Kiln Cotesworth Stewart, can now turn his attention to another marathon, the London Marathon. Graves is also a keen abseiler, whose latest drop took him down the side of the Bowring Building. Meanwhile, David Whitehurst, managing director, prefers to flex his muscles on the less demanding golf course.

MORAG PRESTON

ECONOMIC VIEW ANATOLE KALETSKY

Why Tory comparisons on Europe are not working

Statistics have failed to stop British voters from looking in envy at the Continent



* Latest available figures Jan/Feb 1997 except for Italy which is fourth quarter 1996

** ILO figure 0.7 percentage points higher than UK government official figure of 6.2 per cent

† Estimated from OECD figures for 1995 adjusted by change in total unemployment since 1995

The phrase "Europe isn't working" has apparently been chosen as the theme of the Tories' main assault on Labour economic and foreign policies in the coming weeks. If so, the Government is making another big mistake — and not just for the obvious reason that putting the limelight on Europe will push into semi-detachment the party's two most effective campaigners — Michael Heseltine and Kenneth Clarke. Another objection is that the catchphrase about Europe will inevitably remind voters of the slogan "Labour Isn't Working", emblazoned over posters of an endless dole queue, which helped Margaret Thatcher win in 1979. The trouble with that none-too-subliminal association is that unemployment more than doubled within a year of the 1979 election and is still half a million higher than it was on the day when the Tories came to power.

It can, of course, be argued that many of the jobs lost in the last 18 years were artificial, subsidised and unproductive. It can also be added that the low unemployment typical of the pre-Thatcher period was incompatible with stable prices and peaceful industrial relations. Labour can claim that the unemployment rate never rose above 4.6 per cent before 1980 and has never since been below 5.5 per cent. But Labour must also admit that inflation accelerated throughout the 1960s and 1970s, rising to more than 20 per cent in 1974 and again in 1980. Even worse, the constant strikes and the Napoleonic pretensions of trade union leaders made Britain in the 1970s feel alternately like a war-zone and a lunatic asylum.

The Tory philosophy since 1979 has been that "unemployment is a price worth paying for stable prices", as Norman Lamont once remarked in Parliament. Conventional wisdom now emphatically shares this view. But the political consequences of saying this loudly and in public can still be disastrous, as Mr Lamont would be the first to admit.

Britain's long-term record on jobs is thus a two-edged sword for the Government. It is presumably for this reason that the Tories have decided to focus not so much on Britain's own employment performance, but on how it compares with the rest of Europe. Given the recent contrast between Britain's excellent employment figures and the grim news from Germany and France, this is understandable. Nevertheless, there are pitfalls.

In theory, the Government is almost certainly right that Britain has benefited because of its deregulated markets. In practice, the message may prove hard to sell. Whatever the statistics may say, it will be hard to convince voters that Britain is an economic titan while Germany is an eight-stone weakling.

I can personally attest to this. In the past seven years, I have often argued that Germany's economic strength has been overstated, that the Bundesbank has mismanaged monetary policy, that the mark needs to be devalued, that Frankfurt will never become Europe's financial capital and that Germany's vaunted emphasis on manufacturing could make it the rust-belt of Europe.

Arguments like these can be based on sound economic theories and incontrovertible statistics, but let me share a little secret with Conservative Central Office: my mailbag suggests readers remain unconvinced. In fact, the more I point out that Germany, France and Italy have been running their economies rather badly, the more I find myself on the receiving end of incredulous and aggressive protests, usually from people who sound like hardcore Tories disgusted by what they feel has been Britain's ineluctable slide in relative living standards, political status and economic power.

In part, the public's incredulity about Britain's status as the model economy of Europe reflects what economists call a "slow response-function". If a country has been in relative decline for a century or more, it is bound to take years, even decades or generations, for the conviction to grow that the trend has really been reversed. But there is more to the public's scepticism than mere blind prejudice.

The fact is that Britain's superiority over the other European economies is far from obvious. When Britons go to Germany, Italy and The Netherlands, or even Spain, they return impressed by the generally high living standards and efficient public services. The statistically inclined also know that Germany, France and Italy have all overtaken Britain in terms of per capita incomes — and some may even be aware that Ireland will, within the next year, achieve higher living standards than Britain "for the first time since the Dark Ages".

There are plenty of reasons to question the slogan that "Europe isn't working" from a statistical point of view. Starting with employment, Britain's performance may be better than Europe's at the moment, but it remains to be seen how much of the difference is due to the Tory policies of flexibility and deregulation and how much is simply a consequence of the vagaries of the economic cycle. Britain's performance since 1993 has been excellent relative to the rest of Europe, but occurred during recovery from a horrendous recession, while the European economy — suffering from single currency obsession and Bundesbank misjudgments — has been needlessly slowing down.

In the long term, however, there has been almost no difference in the rate of job creation in Britain, France and Italy: all three have had an abysmal average growth rate of less than 0.2 per cent per year since 1979. (I have omitted Germany because unification gave both employment and output a huge but temporary boost). There has also been little to choose between GDP growth in Britain, Italy and France. These comparisons beg a fascinating question, to which I hope to return in another article. If flexibility and deregulation is really as beneficial as is generally believed, how much better would Italy, France and Germany have done than Britain if they, too, had made a bonfire of their regulations and red tape?

As the two charts in the top panel illustrate, Britain's lacklustre relative performance is not just a consequence of taking 1979 as a starting point. Britain would not have done much better if the comparisons had started with 1987 or 1990. In this sense it is not sufficient for the Tories to claim that Britain would have done much better had it not been for the mess left behind by the Labour governments of the 1970s. That is true, but it is equally valid to point out the mess left behind by Nigel Lawson and John Major when they were Chancellor. Only by starting from 1982-83 or 1991-92 — from the depths of the two great recessions — can Britain claim to have done much better than France or Italy in job creation and economic growth.

And what of the situation today? Surely Britain's latest unemployment figure of only 6.2 per cent stands out like a beacon against the levels of 11 and 12 per cent in the leading Continental countries? The answer again is yes and no. Overall unemployment is certainly much higher than in Britain in all Continental countries apart from Denmark, The Netherlands and Luxembourg. But looking more closely at some of the figures suggests why Europe's high unemployment is causing less social distress than might be expected, while Britain's better jobs record is failing to produce political dividends.

To compare the levels of the most politically sensitive form of unemployment: the number of "prime-age" men between 25 and 54 without jobs (see chart). I have adjusted the officials figures by gender and age-group, last published by the OECD for 1995 by the changes in total unemployment since then. The figures show that on the Continent much of the unemployment is concentrated among women and young workers, who typically suffer jobless rates of 20 per cent or more. But prime-age male workers have generally been protected from the worst of the unemployment. In Britain, by contrast, the male unemployment rate is 8.5 per cent, against only 3.3 per cent for women, and youth unemployment is much lower than on the Continent. The upshot is that men between 25 and 54 years of age are almost as likely to be unemployed in Britain as they are in Germany, while in Italy "prime-age" men probably enjoy a somewhat lower unemployment rate than in Britain.

These figures do not imply that Britain ought to adopt the Continental approach of protecting the jobs of entrenched male workers at the expense of women and the young. Neither do they refute the Tory claim that Europe would gain by copying Britain's more deregulated and flexible approach to markets and jobs. They do, however, suggest why many people in Britain still look with envy at Europe — even if in theory Europe does not work.

Custodian deal highlights global trend

Robert Miller assesses the implications of a new bank with £250bn of assets

A new but little-known bank opens its doors for business on Monday with a not inconsiderable £250 billion worth of assets to manage.

The Royal Bank of Scotland's Trust Bank is one of a new breed of banks that completes a vital link in the security chain that ultimately protects the assets of tens of millions of investors in pension schemes, personal equity plans (Peps), unit and investment trusts, life funds and private client portfolios.

More than £1 trillion worth of assets worldwide are held on behalf of investors and the Securities and Investments Board, the most senior City watchdog, headed by Sir Andrew Large, has estimated that the top ten custodian banks in the UK alone hold domestic assets worth £700 billion.

The new RBS Trust Bank, which will today conclude its acquisition of the Custody and Investor Services division of SG Warburg, has got its timing right. The subject matter may appear dry but its importance to the future safety of pensions and general investments cannot be understated.

Last year the SIB issued new rules for the custody of assets. The driving force behind the tough new rules, as with the new Pensions Act which begins to bite next month, was in part the Maxwell pension fund losses and the more recent £830 million Barings crash. The day-to-day supervision of the global custodians is mainly in the hands of Imro, the watchdog for fund managers, but also the Securities and Futures Authority, which polices brokers and futures traders. For the first time, global custody of assets has come into the net of the Financial Services Act so that in the event of a failure or misappropriation of funds the Investors Compensation Scheme is there as a final safety net.

The attraction of buying in a third-party administration service from a custodian, such as RBS, Citibank or Midland, is that the typical fund managers operation has become so complex it is now simpler and more cost-effective to use an outside body to look after administration and paperwork. If proof were needed that administrative failures can be costly in financial and reputational terms one only has to look at the long list of fines handed down by the City authorities for such rule breaches, which more often than not involve Peps.

Gordon Lindsay, managing director of RBS Trust Bank, maintains that the duties of global custodians are onerous. "Our number one priority is to provide a secure service," he says. "The manager makes the decision to buy or sell a share and we do the rest. We ensure, where appropriate, that the correct number of share certificates are held and in the right name. When dividends are due we make sure that the right amount is paid to the right client account on time. If an investor has changed address or bank that too is entered on our system."

The new global custody standards have also been "fine-tuned" to take account of the introduction of Crest, the new electronic share settlement system. Certain items, however, will not be covered by the watchdogs' rules on the safe custody of assets. These include safe-deposit boxes containing so-called non-investments such as diamonds, cash, property deeds or gold. Nevertheless, says Mr Lindsay, such items may be covered if they are held by an authorised custodian who also looks after securities.

The City watchdogs have warned custodians that "identification and periodic checking of customers' investments will be carried out" and possibly without prior warning. There has also been criticism from some fund managers that the new standards being imposed on them are just another costly exercise in regulation. As the SIB has said: "In the SIB's judgement, as these standards reflect existing good practice, the additional costs of compliance are not likely to be significant."

With political parties laying emphasis on greater provision for retirement and long-term care, it does not seem unreasonable that part of that cost should go towards safeguarding assets.

> ‘Our number one priority is to provide a secure service’

US jeans firm finds seat in London

Lois Letts finds out why an American retailer has chosen Britain as a base for its European expansion

Guess? Inc. American purveyors of pricey denim sportswear, will open a store in Brompton Road today. The first London Guess? shop will be followed by a second in New Bond Street this autumn in the opening phase of an overseas push by the Los Angeles company. More stores are planned for Paris and as far afield as Hungary and Jordan.

"London is the focus of the company's strategy for Europe. I've been a fan of England for many years, but in the last 24 months what has happened in England has become undeniable," said Paul Marciano, company president and one of four brothers from Marseilles who founded Guess? in Los Angeles in 1981. "The British economy is strong and expenditure by consumers is jumping. You can barely walk on the streets around Knightsbridge for people loaded down with shopping bags. The excitement is there. In Paris the feeling is quite different. It's a gorgeous city, but the mood follows the economy of France."

More British stores are planned for Covent Garden, Manchester and Glasgow. The Guess? range is one of the leading brands of jeans in the US. But although they have been advertised in British glossy magazines for years, generating consumer interest, the jeans have not been sold in Britain until now.

A Guess? campaign is credited with launching the career of Claudia Schiffer

European expansion is being funded by the public offering, last August, of 16 per cent of the company's stock. Although this raised $140 million for the business, the launch was not a success. Facing a soft market the Marcianos were forced to reduce the number of shares on offer from 9.2 million to seven million, while the share price was cut from $23 to $18. It has now slumped to $11.

However, money managers in the US are not unduly worried. Guess? Inc's turnover was $551 million last year, with a net income of $54.4 million, exceeding analysts' predictions. Many observers consider Guess? shares to be inexpensive in light of the company's sales and earnings, and are confident that the big drive overseas will filter through to profits in 1998. Paul Marciano is sanguine about the experience of the flotation: "The entire sector is in disfavour by Wall Street at the moment because the fashion industry is seen as volatile. Donna Karan and Calvin Klein have also suffered."

Brompton Road will be the first British store to stock the entire Guess? collection, ranging from eyewear and watches to stretch jeans and a soft brown leather jacket retailing for about £500. The launch party at the Worx Studios in Parsons Green will be attended by Paul Marciano and by Bella Freud and Ben de Lisi, the designers, and Yasmin Le Bon, the model. The jeans will be manufactured by Maco Apparel S.r.L, a joint venture with Fingen Group, of Florence. But they will continue to be designed in Los Angeles under the eye of Maurice Marciano, the company chairman.

Guess? has attracted criticism in the past for its raunchy, some felt sexist, advertising campaigns which launched the likes of Claudia Schiffer, the supermodel. This spring's advertisements featuring Laetitia Casta, a French teenager, are relatively free of innuendo. "We want to reflect what the young generation is feeling today. It's all about friendship, self-confidence and feeling good about themselves," said Maurice Marciano.

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Laing gives warning on Labour's windfall tax

By Christine Buckley, Industrial Correspondent

ONE OF Britain's largest construction groups yesterday issued a warning that *Labour's proposed* windfall tax could stifle recovery in the building trade, should the party come to power.

The attack by John Laing is one of the first to be made on Labour's key tax-raising plan from a business outside the utilities. Sir Martin Laing, *chairman, said that it* was important that the sustained growth being seen in construction should not be "stifled by a hiatus in government decision-making after the election or by policies that could adversely affect the capital expenditure programmes of the utilities sector".

A company spokesman said that a one-year hit on spending could have a worse impact than the recent recession.

Utilities companies are some of the biggest spenders on construction and John Laing is concerned that they would shelve large projects if *forced to pay a windfall tax* expected to raise £3 billion.

With Labour sources indicating an ever widening net of companies that could be affected by the tax, concern is expected to deepen in the construction industry.

Sir Martin said: "The utilities *sector is one of the drivers* of growth in the construction sector and it is important that policy changes do not adversely affect the capital expenditure programmes of clients."

The company's research estimates that the broad range of utilities, including rail, telecoms and airports along with the water, electricity and gas companies, spend £10 billion a year on capital projects. Although not all of that is spent on new building, it compares with the annual £28 billion spent on new building across all areas of the construction sector.

James Armstrong, finance director, said he expected leading contractors' groups to lobby Labour over its windfall plans. Although he did not expect a change of heart, groups may lobby for regulatory relaxations so utilities still have spending power.

Last year, John Laing lifted pre-tax profits 21 per cent to £24.5 million. Sales edged 4 per cent higher in the year to December 31 to £1.25 billion.

The company believes there will be a return to growth in construction *of 2 per cent this* year, after a fall of 10 per cent over the past six years. The company's order book is 21 per cent up on the year, it added, while the property market was strengthening, with retail at the forefront of the growth.

The dividend, which has *been pegged at 9p for four* years, was raised to 9.5p for the year. The final payment, due on July 4, was set at 6.5p.

David Kent, left, of SIG AP, and Graham Dewhirst, director at NatWest Ventures

Managers buy SIG outlet

By Paul Durman

SIG, the building materials group, has sold its architectural hardware arm to a management buyout team backed by £82 million of funding arranged by NatWest Ventures.

SIG AP, headed by David Kent, chief executive, designs and distributes hardware for windows and doors. Last year the business had sales of £67.2 million, and lifted operating profits to £7.1 million.

NatWest Ventures has made an equity investment of £33 million. NatWest Mar*kets and Midland Bank have* provided £39 million of senior debt. A further £10 million of *mezzanine finance was pro*vided by ABN Amro Causeway Mezzanine and Mithras Investment Trust.

Graham Dewhirst, director at NatWest Ventures, said: "Forecasts for the housing market and the domestic *economy over the next three* years are positive. This is an excellent time for us to invest in SIG AP."

Ibstock hit by shake-up and low prices

By Christine Buckley
Industrial Correspondent

A SLUMP in pulp prices *and restructuring* costs sliced into the pre-tax profits of Ibstock, the brick manufacturer that also runs woodpulp mill and forestry operations in Portugal.

Ibstock, which became one of the UK's top two brick manufacturers when it bought Redland's bricks business last year, reported a fall in 1996 pre-tax profits to £8.2 million from £26.1 million.

The forestry products division, whose earnings are largely determined by pulp prices, incurred a £1.9 million loss compared with a £12.1 million profit in 1995. In addition, there were restructuring costs of £3.9 million for Ibstock's UK brick operations.

The Leicestershire company predicted that pulp prices would continue to be *weak during the first half of* this year.

After integrating Redland Brick, Ibstock said it was able to achieve annual cost savings of £8 million. Sir Colin Hope, chairman, said he expected the slow improvement in UK construc*tion activity to continue* through the year.

Last year, however, the brick market was shaped by poor prices, although a pick-up was delivered by an increase in housebuilding in the second half.

Ibstock described this year *as one of consolidation* and operating focus after the company's transition in 1996. The purchase of Redland Brick last year gave Ibstock a 31 per cent share of the market, putting it on a par with Hanson Brick.

Ibstock had been forced to *sell factories producing 4 per* cent of the market demand after it bought Redland by Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, in order that the deal should avoid a reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

There is a final dividend of *1.25p a share, due on July 1*, leaving the total unchanged at 2p.

More jobs under threat in Rugby revamp

By Christine Buckley

MORE jobs may be lost at Rugby Group, the cement maker, joinery and building materials business, as the company completes a restructuring aimed at cutting costs *and boosting margins*.

The reshaping of the group, which includes large operations in the United States and Australia as well the UK, began last year but has further to go, according to Peter Johnson, chief executive. A reduction in jobs had already been anticipated after Rugby bought Boulton & Paul, the *loss-making windows and* doors manufacturer, last month. Then it was predicted that up to 800 of the combined workforce of John Carr, Rugby's existing business, and Boulton & Paul might go.

Rugby saw pre-tax profits, before exceptionals, fall 14 per cent to £62.5 million last year. After exceptionals, the figures *rose 15 per cent to* £52.6 million (£45.8 million).

John Carr suffered from overcapacity in the sector and operating profits, before exceptionals, fell 35 per cent on sales 2 per cent lower. Australia also proved a difficult market, given the country's sharpest downturn in housing for more than 20 years. Oper*ating profit fell 32 per cent on* sales that were 8 per cent lower. The final dividend, payable on May 30, was held at 2.1p, for an unchanged total of 3.6p.

Rugby was cautious in its predictions for markets this year while issuing a warning that the strength of sterling would affect profits and that *the long election campaign* would create uncertainty in the UK economy.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Abbott Mead Vickers soars to a record

ABBOTT MEAD VICKERS, the advertising agency, reported record year-end results but said *its growth* had nothing to do with the recovery from the recession. Peter Mead, who replaced David Abbott as chairman in January, said the results, showing pre-tax profits 39 per cent ahead at £14.5 million, were thanks to acquisitions, not the economic upturn. The new businesses generated £34.7 million in sales last year, bringing overall sales to £358 million (£287 million).

It won £145 million of new business over the year, including accounts from BT, Prudential and Gatwick Express. It was also responsible for the relaunch of Pepsi, which turned its cans blue last Easter. This created business for one of its PR divisions, which painted Concorde blue. Its marketing division delivered a strong performance, making more than 50 per cent of operating profits for the first time. Overall, earnings rose to 24.1p from 18.9p a share. A final dividend of 7.75p, due on June 16, brings the total to 11p.

Burford rises to £15m

BURFORD HOLDINGS, the innovative property group that has spawned no fewer than three demerged companies in Trocadero, Grantchester and Columbus, yesterday reported a rise in 1996 pre-tax profits to £15.06 million, from £11.16 million. Net asset value, including the free Grantchester and Columbus shares *distributed to shareholders*, rose 21 per cent, to 122.9p a share. Earnings from continuing operations rose 7 per cent, to 2.94p a share. There is a final dividend of 1.15p a share, making a total of 2.1p, up 11 per cent.

Barclays in buyback

BARCLAYS BANK yesterday announced that it had *completed the first part of its share repurchase programme* by buying 3.9 million shares at a price of 1090.2p a share. Since unveiling a 13 per cent increase in annual pre-tax profits to £2.4 billion on February 26, Barclays has repurchased 26 million ordinary shares at an average price of 1112.55p, paying a total of £290 million. Martin Taylor, chief executive of the bank, has said up to £500 million will be returned to shareholders during the next 12 months.

Sterling slows McBride

THE STRENGTH of sterling hit first-half sales growth at McBride, Europe's largest manufacturer of own-label household products and toiletries, the company revealed yesterday. Translated into sterling, sales were flat in the six months to December 31. At constant exchange rates, sales of core products were up 5.4 per cent. Pre-tax profit was £13.2 *million (£8 million). Earnings per share were 5.7p* (3.7p) and the interim dividend, payable on May 19, is 2.35p (2.25p).

PowerGen buyout

POWERGEN, the second biggest generator, has bought out its joint partner in Kinetica, the gas retailer. In an £18 million deal PowerGen takes full ownership of the business from *Conoco and will take on liabilities for expensive take or pay* contracts up to £69 million. The liabilities for the contracts will be split equally between PowerGen and Conoco. Kinetica is one of the largest independent gas retailers with about 10 per cent of the industrial and commercial market.

Steel Burrill down 61%

PRE-TAX profit at Steel Burrill Jones, the insurance broker, fell 61 per cent to £2.2 million (£5.7 million) in 1996, the company announced yesterday. It said conditions would continue to be "hostile" this year. Turnover at the retail arm was an improved £21.1 million (£19.6 million), but brokerage and fees in the London market slipped to £18.8 million (£23.3 million). A proposed final dividend of 0.75p will be paid on May 22, making a total of 1.5p (4.5p).

Microvitec declines

MICROVITEC, the international technology group with operations in Britain, Germany and North America, suffered a decline in pre-tax profits to £460,000 (£3.41 million). Although sales rose to £65.2 million (£55.1 million), profits were adversely affected by a reduction in prices of many components. The strong pound also hit export markets. Earnings were 0.21p a share (3.14p). The final dividend is held at 0.45p a share, making a total of 0.875p (0.85p).

Carclo pays £25.6m

CARCLO ENGINEERING is paying £25.6 million for the technical mouldings division of EIS Group, which is concentrating on making equipment for the oil, gas and aerospace industries. The technical mouldings business, founded around Davall Moulded Gears and Silleck Mouldings, serves the automotive, electronics and office automation markets. It expects to report a £3 million operating profit on sales of £37 million.

Therapeutic spending

THERAPEUTIC ANTIBODIES, the drug development company whose shares have fallen by a quarter since its flotation in London last July, spent $9.7 million on research and development last year, 50 per cent more than in 1995. Revenues increased 26 per cent to $744,000, while net losses deepened to $12.75 million ($9.1 million loss). The company, based in Nashville, finished the year with $22.5 million in cash and short-term investments.

Keller shows strength

PRE-TAX profits at Keller Group, the international ground engineering company, rose to £12.5 million (£11.2 million), with a strong second-half performance offsetting the adverse impact of severe weather in Europe in the first half. Turnover was 7 per cent higher at £235 million. Activity in Germany has slowed but there is continuing growth in North America. The 3.9p *final lifts the total* 10 per cent to 5.85p, payable from earnings that rose 19 per cent to 13.9p a share.

Tottenham profits dented by transfer market spending

By Alasdair Murray

ALAN SUGAR, chairman of Tottenham Hotspur Football Club, admitted yesterday that the club has had a disappointing season, but claimed that it is close to having a squad capable of challenging for major honours.

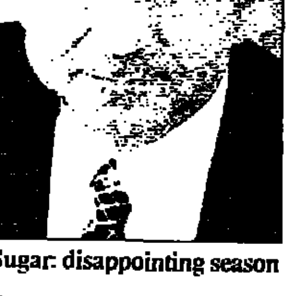
Operating costs at the club rose 13 per cent to *£10 million* because of an increase in the playing staff. The company added that it has renegotiated a number of the players' contracts to ensure protection against the Bosman ruling and that the full impact of this increase in costs would be felt *in future years*.

Tottenham announced a 13 *per cent rise in half*-year operating profits to £7.1 million, while overall turnover also rose 13 per cent to £17.1 million.

The club spent £10.8 million in the first half of the year on new players, including Allan Nielsen and Ramon Vega. Headline profits before tax fell from £10.7 million to £6 million as a result of the transfer market expenditure. The club also made a £2.6 million write-down on the squad's balance sheet valuation to take account of the Bosman ruling.

The company has completed the redevelopment of the South Stand, allowing corporate hospitality for up to 2,500 guests per match. Redevelopment of the North Stand will begin during the summer, which will result in a cut in capacity in the first part of next year. Two new team kits will also be launched next season.

The interim dividend was increased 10 per cent to 0.33p, payable on April 28. Shares in the company closed ½p down at 110½p.

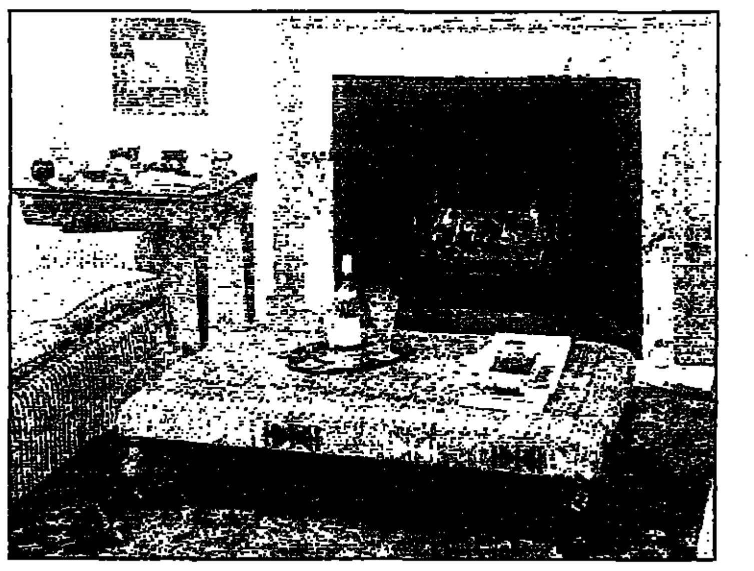


Sugar: disappointing season

EXCLUSIVE OFFER AND COMPETITION THE TIMES

Five kilim stools worth £400 each to be won

Times readers have the chance to win a beautiful kilim stool from Clock House Furniture. The kilims are hand woven in Turkey in a range of traditional colours and designs. Worth £400 each, they can be mounted on a wide choice of leg styles from mahogany finish Queen Ann to modern shapes stained to suit your decor. Clock House Furniture recognised a gap in the market seven years ago and is now making stools to order in any fabric, kilim or needlepoint, including Ottomans, window seats and club fenders. For a brochure call Nicholas Parry on **01620 861300**.



CLOCK HOUSE FURNITURE

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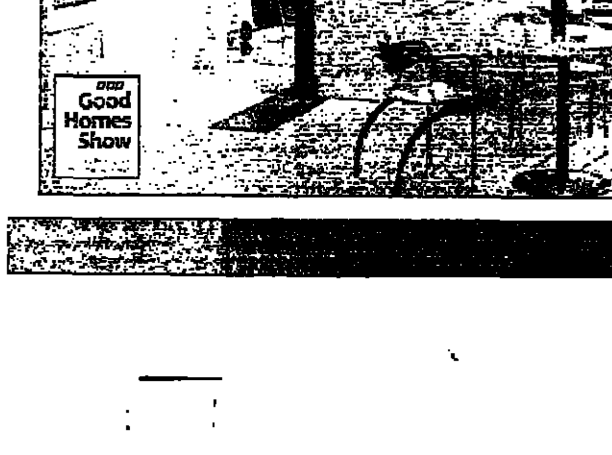
Where are Clock House kilim stools hand woven?
a) Afghanistan b) India c) Turkey

The line is open until midnight tonight. Winners will be chosen at random from all correct entries. Normal TNL rules apply. 0839 calls cost 50p per minute. See tomorrow's *Times* for a luxury shower.

FREE tickets for the BBC *Good Homes Show*

Plus a £10,000 Miele fitted kitchen to be won

The Times offers you a FREE ticket, worth at least £7.50, for the first ever BBC *Good Homes Show* at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, from April 9-13. Collect three differently numbered tokens and send them, with a stamped sae marked on the front with which day you wish to attend and the application form which will appear again tomorrow. Your name will automatically be entered into a prize draw to win the £10,000 Miele kitchen, left.



Throughout the week there will be live performances in the Lloyds Bank Insurance Direct Celebrity Theatre featuring celebrities from BBC shows. Lady Caroline Wrey will teach you how to dress a window as well as make blinds and accessories, Jocasta Innes who was featured in yesterday's competition, will give away her Paint Magic secrets, and Ann Morris, America's "House Doctor" reveals the secret of selling a home. Call **0121 767 4000** to pre-book theatre and show admission tickets. (For a Miele brochure call 01235 554488.)

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CHANGING TIMES

Chemicals group lifts profit to £62.5m in difficult environment

Albright eyes emerging markets

By Martin Barrow

ALBRIGHT & WILSON, the UK speciality chemicals company, is targeting emerging markets in Latin America, China and India for future expansion.

Expansion into geographic areas offering higher growth rates is already under way with investments in Mexico and in joint ventures in the Asia Pacific region. Robin Paul, chief executive, said: "It is to these markets the group will increasingly turn to to generate the growth in revenues from new and existing products."

The company said it had also made progress in its efforts to enhance competitiveness in traditional areas of operation, although the financial benefit was likely to be masked by the adverse impact of the stronger pound in 1997.

Mr Paul said: "The immediate challenge for management is to seek ways to mitigate the impact of the currency effect to ensure cost and price competitiveness is maintained in the UK business."

Yesterday Albright & Wilson reported a rise in pre-tax profits to £62.5 million from £55 million, which the company said was "a satisfactory result in an environment that has offered little assistance in the various markets in which the group operates". The price of raw materials stabilised, having added £40 million to costs in 1995.

Earnings were 13.9p a share (12.3p). The total dividend is 6.9p a share (6.5p), with a 4.65p final. The shares rose 2½p to 147p yesterday, although they remain well below the high of 207½p achieved in 1996. The company was floated on the stock market in 1995 after 17 years as part of Tenneco Inc, the US industrial group.

In the key phosphates business, which supplies products from soft drinks to washing powders, sales rose 8 per cent to £361 million, including associate companies, but operating profits fell 7.5 per cent to £47 million, with margins down to 13 per cent (15.2 per cent). Mr Paul said phosphates had been affected by special factors, including higher Chinese phosphorus prices and costs and distortions linked to capacity increases and plant refurbishments in England and Mexico.

Heavy selling of second liners

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
566	407½	Allied Domecq	447	-10½	6.6	13.5
626	477	Bulmer (HP)	621½	-2½	2.7	18.5
131	83½	Burn Stewart	64½	-4	6.6	68.6
1025	615	Glenmorangie A	1010	-5	1.5	27.5
503½	411	Grand Met	494½	+1	4.0	16.0
502½	424	Guinness	507½	+15½	4.1	14.0
380	315	Highland Dist	347½	-8	3.0	18.7
803	256½	Matthew Clark	315½	-3½	9.5	15.1
141	91½	Merrydown W	94	-3	8.1	12.7
2612½	1375	SA Breweries	1943½	+3½	1.8	..

BANKS

High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
4706½	2743½	ABN-AMRO	4153½	-112½	2.9	18.6
811	528	Abbey Natl	718½	-14	4.5	12.7
455½	315	Allied Irish	410½	-14	4.4	
409½	285	Aust New Z	389½	+9½	4.9	
7678½	3849½	Bank America	6871½	-18½		
373½	227½	Bank Scotland	315½	-24	2.9	11.6
1226	683	Barclays†	1032½	-44	3.8	10.4
635	413	Bk of Ireland	602	-13	3.5	13.6
7890½	4031½	Citicorp	7321½	+18½		
1721½	1268½	Commerzbk	1716½	+12½	2.6	
1350	809½	Dai Ichi Kan Y	709½	-3½	0.6	
3490½	2709½	Deutsche Bk	3312½	-71½	2.0	
912½	593½	Espirito Santo	909½	+3½	3.8	12.6
1507	600½	Fuji Bank Y	789½	-2½	0.6	
1622	931	HSBC†	1475	-39½	3.5	12.8
1963½	930	HSBC HK†	1421½	-38½	3.6	12.3
605	385	Irish Perm†	595	-8	2.7	
534	294½	Lloyds TSB†	476½	-22½	3.5	15.4
819½	566	Nat Aust Bk	771	-6	5.5	10.1
844½	605½	Nat West†	686½	-17	5.3	10.3
632½	464	Ryl Bk Scot	530	-21	4.4	11.7
900½	547	Stand Chart†	827½	-21	2.2	14.8
£174½	£131½	Wells Fargo	£164½		2.0	
374½	264	Westpac	349½	+2½	4.0	11.0

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
878½	702	Bass	807½	-13	3.9	15.9
70	40	Brit Inn the Bdr	63½		3.4	17.4
205	161	Burtonwood Brw	186½	-2	3.8	16.8
155½	92	City Centre Rest	150½	-2½	1.9	28.4
744½	463	Compass Grp	678	-19½	1.6	26.9
290½	190	Eldridge P 'A'	279	-7	2.4	17.1
540	413	Fullr Sm 'A'	487½		2.4	16.1
636	514	Greenalls Grp	514	-18	3.7	16.2
750	567½	Greene King	717½	-13½	2.8	17.7
285	164½	Greenwich Resrt	204	-1½	3.7	19.7
285	204	Groupe Chez Ger	248	-21½	1.5	24.3
357	276½	Hardy Hansn	283½	-9	4.7	12.9
3475	2700	Hall J	3750		2.6	14.8
78	45	Inn Business†	73	+½	2.7	
357	298	Mansfield	354	-3	2.2	16.3
353½	252	Marston Thmp	283½	-1½	3.3	10.6
659	524	Morland	605	-5	2.8	15.9
72½	35½	Paramount	36½	-1		
711½	217	PizzaExpress†	710½	+32	0.5	46.4
438	246	Ramsdens (H)†	427½		1.5	
378½	138½	Regent Inns	304½	-4½	1.1	29.1
700½	601	Scot & New	676½	-9½	3.7	20.5
313	246	Vaux Group	299½	-12	4.9	12.8
1355	640	Wetherspoon JD	1187½	-2½	1.0	28.4
819	672	Whitbread	773½	-13½	3.6	15.1
706½	578	Wolvrhmptn D	673½	-14	3.2	14.8
491½	292	Yates Bros	491		1.0	31.6
650	425	Young 'A'	620	..	3.1	24.7

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
34½	15	AAF Inds	21½	-2½		

High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
467½	325	Electrocomponents	417½	-1	2.1	25.3
314	125½	Eurodis Elec†	198½	-2½	3.3	28.8
156	65	Eurodollar	138	+1	5.4	14.0
105	76	European Mtr	85½	-1½	7.7	8.7
375	217	Evans Halshaw	247½		8.7	
67	39½	Fife Indmar	50½		8.2	7.6
397½	239½	Frost Grp	356½	-13	2.1	18.1
34½	16½	Gardiner†	32½	-½	3.6	12.5
81	32½	Glentherm	73		2.3	
110	70½	Gowrings	99		3.9	
101	72	Hartwell	99		7.9	9.0
292	216	Harris (PhA)	255½	-3½	4.3	15.5
328½	200½	Headlam	318½	-1	2.3	28.4
200	132	Holders Tech	149		5.0	14.0
242½	153	ISA Intl	228½	+2	1.6	
316	231	Inchcape	242½	-6	4.2	20.7
78	33	Jacks (Wm)	52½		4.8	18.1
260	169	Kwik-Fit	241	+½	2.9	18.9
390	299	Lex Service†	341	-6½	5.9	11.2
155	107	Lookers†	103½	-1½	9.7	6.9
17	10½	Malaya Grp	13½	-½	6.4	
9½	5½	Middlesex	7½	-½	1.3	11.1
47	31	[illegible]	37	-2	0.6	
565	229	Norbain	259½		3.9	7.2
174½	115	Northamber	136	-4½	1.3	8.1
352½	191½	Partco	334	-1	3.0	..
404½	272	Pendragon	390½		3.2	..
223½	145	Perry Gp	210½	-1	5.5	..
752½	480	Premier Farnell	492½	-12½	2.9	19.2
190	139	Quicks Group	142	-1½	5.7	10.6
348	185	REA	315		1.6	37.8
3	2	Reace	2½			
54	20	Ronson	21½	-1½	8.7	7.4
4½	2	Russ Gp	3			
109½	66	[illegible]	90	-4½	5.6	16.1
56	25½	SEP Indl	27½	-½	8.0	7.4
195	55	Saltire	60	-1	2.1	19.4
417½	246	Time Products	405½	-7	3.4	16.6
301½	123	UNIECO	233		2.6	16.7
352½	263½	Vardy (Reg)	335½		2.8	14.6
650	325	WF Elect	612		2.7	22.2
59	25½	[illegible]	36½	-½	2.9	10.8
172½	75½	Wyko†	152½	-4½	2.2	17.8
154½	104	Young (H)	137½	-2	3.8	11.8

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
420	288	Antofagasta	405	-2	1.6	15.7
387	263	Ascot Hldgs	307	-6	2.1	
1056	785	Broken Hill	846½	+15	2.9	19.0
340	229	BTR†	258	-8	4.7	14.2
586	411	BAT†	489	-18½	6.6	10.6
195½	105	Bibby (J)	181½		5.2	10.6
63	50½	[illegible]	56½	-½	8.2	9.5
972	715	Charter	787½	-30	4.8	10.8
328	205	Cookson†	235½	-6½	4.6	17.1
229½	141	Cosalt†	204½	-1	6.0	9.9
312½	204	DCC	310	-½	2.8	12.3
141½	109½	Grampian Hdg	116½	-7	6.7	12.0
172½	118½	Harrisn Crsfld	126½	-2	9.3	11.3
509½	379½	Hutch Whamp	438	-7½	2.3	17.7
438½	352	Imperial Tobacco	421½	-6½	5.9	8.4
563½	344½	Jardine Math	365½	-½	4.3	
217½	118½	Lonrho†	147½	-2	4.0	13.4
191	164	McLeod Russel	166½		5.0	13.6
478	388	Powell Duffryn	435	-1½	7.2	17.1
146	97	[illegible]	145		7.1	12.5
232	153½	Staveley	182½	-6	6.3	13.0
607	458½	Swire Pacific	459½	-28½	2.9	16.6
358	268	TI Group	349½	-1	2.8	15.2
296½	232½	Tomkins†	269½	-4	4.8	13.4
295	167½	[illegible]	205		8.9	
517½	365	Wardle Storeys	440	-7½	5.4	16.3
387½	254	Wassall	347½	-1	2.2	21.3
237	129½	Whitecroft	154½	-4½	4.0	12.3
369½	294½	Williams Hldg	333½	-1	5.6	13.8

ELECTRICITY

High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
84	30	Gibson Eng	38	-1		
301	127½	Six Hundred	132	-1	4.5	2.6
839½	822	Smiths Ind	815½	-7½	2.5	20.9
788½	593	Spirax-Sarco†	648½		2.9	17.1
324	273½	Sterling Ind	276	-½	4.0	13.9
594½	456	TT	572½	-14	3.2	18.7
124	92	Tinsley (E)	111½	..	6.6	11.6
121	72	TransTec	109	-8½	2.6	19.5
212½	140	Triplex Lloyd	165½	-1	4.7	10.5
167½	137	Unicorn Intl	165½		4.1	14.8
82½	47½	Utd Inds	62½		4.9	17.6
302	231½	Vickers	231½	-7½	4.0	13.6
14	8½	Wilkes Grp	9½			
770	621	Vosc	646	-8	2.4	11.6
952	750	Vosper Thorny	900½	-1	3.4	15.1
436	284½	Wagon Ind	286½		8.6	8.8
273½	203½	Weir	237	-6½	4.3	13.3
275	228	Wellington Hldg	250½		4.0	
59	25	Wellman	28½		7.8	6.3
61½	26	Wescol	52	-3½	2.4	19.9
575	363	Whatman	527½	-2½	2.9	21.6
122	42½	Wilshaw†	45½	-1	9.6	13.7

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
151	109	Adwest†	127½	-1½	7.6	17.9
285	180	Airflow Stream	195		5.1	8.4
757	473	Avon Rubber	725	-14	3.3	14.2
107	57½	BSG	101	-1	4.5	
353	227½	Bostrom	257½		3.3	10.6
29	15	Brookcraft	16½		7.5	38.7
707	431	First Tech	680	-3½	1.7	20.2
1186	778	GKN†	985½	-4	3.4	15.1
3800	2950	General Mtr	3528½	-25	3.8	
689	497	Hellyst	536½	-5	3.5	12.7
1975½	1312½	Honda Motor	1634½	-8	0.4	
502	348	Laird	348½	-8	4.4	10.6
262	172	LucasVarity	199	-½	0.0	
165½	91	Mayflower	162	-2	1.8	30.2
193	145	Syltone	170½		4.3	12.5
190½	120½	T & N	147½	-4½	5.2	
116	35½	Toad	36½			
433	252½	Trinity Hldgs	332½	-5	3.2	16.9

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
520	355	AB Food	511½		2.3	16.8
311½	233	Acatos & Hutch†	298½		4.2	40.3
53	38½	Albert Fisher	43	-½	10.9	10.5
325	265	Banks (S C)†	302		4.7	11.4
405	313	Barr (AG)†	387½	-3½	2.8	21.0
43	21	Bensons Crspt	36½	-½	3.4	9.2
418½	341	Booker	350	-6	8.3	13.8
39	20½	Borthwick	30		5.4	37.9
507	167	CPL Aromas	190	-10	3.4	9.6
567	454	Cadbury-Schwt	534	+2½	4.0	14.6
98½	65	Canadian Pizza†	85	-1½	7.4	
348	298	Carrs Milling	319		4.1	10.3

High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
377½	314	Dunedin Smlr	373	-1	3.0	39.1
177	153½	Dunedin Wrde	161	-3	1.5	64.4
115½	82½	Edin Dragon	85½	-1½		
30½	23½	Edinburgh Inca	29½			
372½	312½	Edinburgh	363	-4	3.5	31.5
177	102½	EFM Japan	110½	-½		
502	382	Electra Inv	467½	-1	2.2	43.8
272	222	Electric Gen	268½	-1½	1.7	57.9
267½	43	English Nat	196	-7½	0.2	
156	138	English Scot	153½			
419½	332	European Asset	395	-1½	1.3	
108½	88½	Fidlty Asian Val	97½	-3		
257½	193	Fidlty Euro Val	248½	-6½		
85½	38½	Fidlty Jap Val	30	-½	0.3	
136½	102	Fidlty Spec Val	131		0.5	
226½	171½	Fledgeling 'A'	223½	-½	2.2	50.3
200½	162½	Five Ar Chile	189½	-½	1.7	55.0
43½	24½	Five Ar Wts	25½	-½		
438½	273	Fleming Amer	428½	-3½	0.8	
76½	54	Fleming Chinese	73½	-1½	0.8	..
44	17	Fleming Ch Wts	27½	-1		
339½	250	Fleming Claver	322	-2	2.5	42.1
437	343	Fleming Contl	428½	-3½	1.2	
160	110½	Fleming Em Mkts	133½	-1½	0.2	
273	227½	Fleming Enter	247	-2	2.7	31.3
388	286	Fleming F East	288½	-5	0.6	
464	395	Fleming Fledgl	417		0.6	
110½	100½	Fleming Ing Inct	107	-1	11.1	11.1
176	99	Fleming Ing Cap	165	-1½	..	..
71½	38½	Fleming Indian	47½	-½		
41	17½	Fleming In Wts	19	-½		
290	170	Fleming Japan	178½	-1½		
384½	286	Fleming Mercy	379	-2½	2.7	40.3
133	95	Fleming Nat Res	112½	-½	0.6	
366	317	Fleming Overs†	340½	-4½	1.7	70.0
160½	128	Fleming Smlr Cos†	150	-½	3.5	33.5
171	146½	Foreign & Col	158½	-2½	1.8	
113	87	F&C Inc Gwth†	92	-2	4.8	27.0
116	85	F&C Emg Mkts	103½	-1½		
143½	85½	F&C Enterprise	142½	-½	2.1	
331	257	F&C Eurotst	324½	-1½	0.5	
152½	125	F&C German	147½	-1½	0.5	
207	157½	F&C Pacific	153½	-2½	1.5	53.4
149½	134	F&C PEP	148	-½	3.5	34.1
200	166½	F&C Smaller	184½	-½	1.6	73.4
147	122½	F&C US Smlr	132½	-½		
82½	50	Framlin Inc	68½		10.3	10.8
87½	58	Framlin Cap	76	-1½		
68½	40½	Framl Dual Cp	63½	-2		
19½	11	Fulcrum Cap	18½			
35	25½	Fulcrum Inct	25½		38.9	2.4
180	161	Fulcrum Zero	178½	-½		
257½	209	Gartmore Brit	250½	..	4.1	..
246	203	Gartmore Entl	246		2.2	48.0
212½	172	Gartmore Euro	211½		0.9	
90	69½	Gartmore Shdr	87	-1½	14.2	9.0
371½	243	G'more Smlr Cos	366½	-1	2.0	67.9
91½	67	Geared Inc Invt	88	-1½	12.3	9.7
231½	151	Geared Cons Cap	222½	-1½		
109	100	Gartmore Inct	103½	-½	12.2	9.7
125½	96	German Inv	125½		0.5	
266½	209	Gov Asn Sm Cas	258½	-2	0.3	
121	92½	Gov Emg Mkts	107½	-2	0.3	
243	175	Govett Am Smlr	175	-1½		
99	82½	Gov Glob Smlr	86			
85½	66½	Govett High Inct	74½	-3	3.4	12.9
218	157½	Govett Oriental	164½	-3½	0.5	
369½	287	Govett Strategic	361	-5½	2.5	42.8

High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
220½	135	Murray S/C Cap	205½	-4½		
73½	66	Murray S/C Inct	68	-1	21.2	6.5
3750	2850	Murray S/C Ult	3700		3.9	
511	419	Murray Small	463½	-3½	1.4	68.5
402½	355	Murray Vent	396	-1	4.8	21.9
9	5½	Newmarket	5½			
415	353½	O'seas Inv Tst	401	-3	1.2	
218	156½	O'seas Wts	208½	-1½		
147	111½	Pacific Assets	112	-2½	0.4	
109½	88	Perp Inc Gth	105½	-1½	2.1	
93½	44½	Perpetual Jap	45½			
366½	287	Perp UK Sm Co	352	-1	3.5	
£139½	£111½	Personal Assets	£138		2.0	47.6
128½	103	Pilot Inv	125½	-½	2.1	51.2
134½	108	Prolific Inc	119	-2½	4.3	27.3
251½	210	RIT Cap Ptnr	245	-1	0.8	
542½	450	Robeco	540½	-½	2.2	
551½	475	Rolinco	550½	-½	1.2	
120½	97	Schrod Asia Pac	97½	-2½	0.3	
96	73	Schrod Emg Cm	89½	-½		..
138	110	Schrod Inc Gwth	128½	-2	3.3	24.4
95	51	Schrod Jap Gwth	56½			
427½	403½	Schrod Korea	470½	+1		
29	18½	Schrod Split Cap	27½	-½		
115½	92	Schrod Split Inct	111½	-1½	9.2	
146½	126½	Schrod Split Zero	146			
137½	117	Schrod UK Gwth	132½	-1½	2.8	25.9
201½	181	Schrod Vent Inv	193½	-		
299	254	Scot	290½	-3	2.6	47.1
184½	159	Scot American†	175½	-3	3.7	35.2
358	277	Scot Asian	296	-7		
1065	675	Scot Inv	815			
111½	92½	Scot Eastern	108½	-1½	2.2	
302	253	Scot Mtge	292½	-2	2.1	49.3
180	128	Scot Nat Tst	96½	-½	10.7	11.3
126	106½	Scot Value	125½		2.0	62.0
2126	1823	Second Alliance†	2045½	-14½	3.0	40.3
111½	88	Secs Tst of Scot	106½	-1½	4.3	28.4
156½	130	Shires Smlr	156	+1½	4.8	25.1
385	345	St Andrew Invt	379		3.1	
409½	329½	Temple Bar	391½	-4	5.1	22.3
97½	73	Throgmorton	85½	-½	3.4	40.7
157½	125½	Tylon Emg Mkt	144½	-3½	0.9	
195½	152	TR City Of Lont	192½	-1½	4.0	23.7
176½	96½	TR Euro Growth	167	-3	2.5	
193	169	TR Far East†	177½	-2½	4.9	25.9
137½	109	TR High Inct	137		5.8	19.0
131	104½	TR Pacific	113	-2½	0.3	
39	27½	TR Property	37½	-½	3.4	27.6
244½	203½	TR Smlr Cos	237½	-4	2.1	44.0
383	167	TR Tech Invt	336	-8	3.7	42.0
284½	180	Tudor Trust	284	+2½	1.6	
163½	111	Undervalued As	161½	-1	1.8	59.1
151½	124	Value Inc Tst	150		3.9	33.9
89	65½	Value Real	87½	-½		
102½	77	Voyageur Eb Str	99½	-2	0.7	
37	29½	Warrants & Val	36½	-½		
88	56	Wigmore	81½	-1½	1.5	51.7
296½	249	Witan†	285½	-3½	2.9	40.2
85	74	Yeoman Inct	81	-1	23.3	5.2

LEISURE & HOTELS

High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
121	72½	ABI Leis	82½	-2	7.4	8.1
1043½	361	Airtours	956	-23½	2.1	19.6

High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
291	198	GGT Group#	223		3.4	15.5
359½	166½	GWR Gp	228½		1.4	39.6
387½	200	[illegible]	385½	-1	2.0	19.2
34½	18	Goodhead	31½		1.0	19.2
327½	217	Grampian	276½		2.9	22.1
401	264	HTV Group†	319	-11	1.6	
336	232½	Haynes Publ	365	-5	5.7	12.1
27	17	Highbury Hse	19		..	
360	199	Hodder H'line	276		3.8	21.8
285	145	Home Counts	260		2.6	29.5
334	273	IBC	324		3.2	12.1
26½	10½	Incepta	24	-1½		16.3
342½	292	Independent	337½		2.4	..
130	95	Intermedia	110	+8	4.6	8.7
207½	134½	Johnston Press	183	-13	1.5	20.5
32½	13	Lopex	29½		3.2	
343	140	MAID	200	-4		
330	220	Maiden	316½		1.3	37.9
71	26½	Mediakey	39½		4.6	
1265	647	Metal Bulletin	1200		2.1	34.9
157½	108	Midland Ind	152	-2	3.2	
241	175	Mirror Gp	206½	-5½	2.8	14.2
707½	447½	Mond Grpt	642	-7½	2.9	
393	301	News Corp	305½	+4½	0.5	8.1
303½	249½	News Corp Pref	256	+7½	1.4	
234½	77½	On Demand Inf	79½	-4		
42	20	Osprey Comms	26½			12.0
797½	594	Pearson	744½	-6½	3.1	59.1
226	43	Photobank	57½	-2½		
845	575	Portsmn Sund	840		2.0	18.9
316	226½	Quarto†	234		4.3	
1220	980	Reed Intl	1093½	-44	3.2	28.3
814	586	Reuters†	667½	-9½	2.4	19.9
404	296	Scott Radio	370½	+½	2.6	19.9
806	468	Scot TV	694½	-2	3.4	22.0
62½	36	Standasch	53	-½	3.4	9.7
58	16	Sleepy Kids	19	-½	0.7	7.1
519	267	Southnews	503½		1.6	27.6
30½	23	Sterling Pub	25			49.1
55½	35	Taylor Nelson	50½	-1	1.8	24.0
205	113	Television Co	190	-1	2.0	15.4
1403	865	Thomson Corp	1281	-12½	3.6	26.9
505½	342	Trinity Intl	492½	-6	3.0	25.0
278	180½	Ulster TV	167		3.6	16.3
771	556	United News	732½	-23	4.1	47.7
140	55½	VTP	67½	-5	8.5	5.4
263	167½	Visual Action†	184½	-1	2.8	15.3
279½	157	WPP	255½	-9½	0.8	18.5
132½	66	Wilmington	122	-1	3.3	37.8
1315	680	Yorkshire TV	1130	-42½	2.0	29.3

MINING

High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
7600	3800	Ang Am Coal	4390½	+9½	3.2	
4990½	3071½	Ang Am	3931½		2.2	15.0
7387½	4268½	Ang Am Gold	4587½	-127½	3.4	
27½	13½	Anglo Pac Res	18½			
49½	23	Arcan Intl	49			
1805½	715½	Ashanti†	930½	+6½	2.0	
121	80	Ashton	94½		6.0	
245	128½	Avocet	220	-2		
565	172½	[illegible]	157	-2		
698½	339½	Beatrix	371½	+½	5.3	17.0

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	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
General Acc	724.60	770.90	- 7.50	2.34
General Inc	600.30	638.70	- 8.20	2.34
UK Growth Acc	501.60	533.60	- 5.40	2.46
UK Growth Inc	324.70	345.50	- 3.50	2.46
Higher Inc Acc	892.20	949.20	- 10.80	3.94
Higher Inc Inc	475.30	505.70	- 5.70	3.94
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	214.80	228.60	- 0.80	5.60
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	91.70	96.85	- 0.35	5.60
Nth America	366.50	389.90	- 2.90	..
Europe	400.40	426.08		0.27
Brit Excell	98.82	105.20	- 1.00	2.58
Brit Fndmtls Acc	126.40	134.50	- 0.90	4.60
Brit Fndmtls Inc	83.26	88.60	- 0.60	4.60
Global Opps	105.10	111.80	- 0.40	
Balanced Acc	66.58	70.83	- 0.49	2.44
Balanced Inc	62.17	66.14	- 0.45	2.44
Japan Acc	38.09	40.53	+ 0.19	
Pac Basin Acc	392.70	417.80	- 4.90	0.99

ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS
0345 717 373

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Gilts & Fixed Int	131.60	139.60†	- 0.60	6.81
High Inc Equity	197.90	211.70	- 1.50	4.49
Worldwide Bond	270.80	287.10†	- 0.20	4.18
American Growth	426.40	455.70	- 3.40	0.37
Asian Pacific	330.50	353.50	- 5.00	0.39
Assets & Earnings	322.90	345.30	- 3.60	2.73
Euro Capital Acc	204.30	218.50	- 1.90	0.72
Extra Inc	42.70	45.43†	- 0.11	8.06
General	291.40	310.00†	- 2.50	2.92
Global Opps	74.69	79.46	- 0.52	0.50
Japan	89.62	95.85	+ 0.07	
Managed Inc	49.41	52.56†	- 0.28	4.28
Mastertrust	176.20	188.40	- 1.40	1.27
US Emerging Cos	181.50	193.10	- 4.50	
Ethical	89.24	94.94	- 0.43	1.65
International	140.30	149.30	- 0.90	0.58
Dividend & Growth	73.02	77.68	- 0.52	4.33
Global Gvts & Sec	74.96	80.17	+ 0.02	2.52
Latin America	81.72	86.94	- 0.53	0.45
Capital Reserve	140.00	140.00	- 0.20	4.60

ABBEY NATIONAL UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0141 275 8500

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
NSP UK Growth	97.44	103.80	- 0.94	2.32
Equity Income	137.10	145.80	- 1.50	4.15
Extra Income	264.70	281.50	- 2.70	6.40
Smaller Cos	115.40	122.70†	- 1.00	1.45
International	118.30	125.80	- 0.60	1.37

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Pacific Portfolio	163.70	176.03	- 1.21	[illegible]
UK Equity	104.92	111.92	- 0.82	[illegible]
UK Equity & Bd	60.83	64.42	- 0.51	[illegible]
UK Smll Cos	55.56	59.43†	- 0.11	[illegible]

CBF CHURCH OF ENGLAND FUNDS
0171 588 1815

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Inv Fund	830.36	842.90	- 0.64	[illegible]
Fxd In Sec	156.97	157.59	- 1.04	[illegible]

COIF CHARITY FUNDS
0171 588 1815

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Investment Inc	832.43	845.01	+ 12.36	[illegible]
Investment Acc	[illegible]	[illegible]	+ 57.01	
Fixed Int Inc	130.70	131.22	+ 0.38	[illegible]
Fixed Int Acc	243.43	244.41	+ 0.71	

CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD
0171 407 5966

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Beckman Intl	88.47	93.35		[illegible]
Beck Bio-Tech	42.28	45.90	- 3.39	[illegible]
Acorn Ethical Tst	192.92	202.58	...	[illegible]
City Fin Assets	85.08	89.34	...	[illegible]
City Fin Intl	91.45	96.03	..	[illegible]
Friars Hse Cap	332.96	354.21	..	[illegible]
Buckley Wrld Grth	143.31	151.91†		
J Sid Inc/Gth Inc	59.66	62.65	- 2.11	[illegible]
Stow Utilities	65.10	68.47	- 0.75	[illegible]

CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Emerging Markets	60.75	64.48†	+ 0.05	

CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD
0345 772 232

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American Grth	82.99	88.28	- 0.39	[illegible]
Dragon Growth	72.05	77.65	- 0.06	[illegible]
Equity High Inc	97.77	104.71†	- 1.28	[illegible]
-do- Accum	143.33	153.50	- 1.89	[illegible]
Extra Income Inc	26.98	28.41	- 0.18	[illegible]
Extra Income Acc	30.12	31.71	- 0.18	[illegible]
European Grth	69.09	73.50	- 0.12	[illegible]
Evergreen	31.95	34.17	- 0.23	
General Equity	114.75	121.75	- 1.03	[illegible]
Japan Growth	37.87	40.29	+ 0.20	
Pedigree Grth	68.92	73.02	- 0.61	[illegible]
Pad San Cos Inc	40.94	44.02	- 0.25	[illegible]
-do- Accum	43.64	46.93	- 0.27	[illegible]
Retirement Inc #	29.82	31.76	- 0.34	[illegible]
Special Sits	50.56	54.35	- 0.32	[illegible]
UK & Overseas	63.29	67.14	- 0.49	[illegible]

COLONIAL UNIT TRUSTS (UK) LTD

JUPITER UT MGRS LTD
0171 581 3020

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
World Health	205.40	218.50	- 3.80	..
Income #	244.20	259.78	- 1.62	3.99
UK Growth	94.87	100.92	- 0.59	1.83
Intl Growth	91.44	97.27	- 0.70	0.58
Ecology	110.48	117.53	- 1.46	0.88
European	232.058	246.87	+ 0.51	0.20
Far Eastern	309.60	329.30	- 2.80	..
UK Special Sits	60.64	64.68	- 0.39	0.37
Fd of Inv Tsts	56.71	60.49	- 0.30	..
High Income #	55.21	58.89	- 0.51	4.75

Dealing: 01277 261 010 Enq: 01903 204 631

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
European Growth	110.62	117.58	+ 0.47	0.50
Intl Bond	63.63	66.90	- 0.01	4.74
Intl Equity Growth	88.46	93.36	+ 0.49	2.61
N Amer Growth	152.83	162.34†	- 0.36	0.78
Special Sits Growth	30.46	32.40†	- 0.28	2.04
UK Growth	501.40	533.40	- 4.16	2.46
-do- Accum	692.38	736.57	- 5.74	2.46

MW JOINT INVESTORS LTD
01620 825867

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Balanced Fd #	1525.40	1546.20		3.20
Income #	1095.30	1109.20		4.50

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KLEINWORT BENSON UNIT TRUSTS
Dealers: 0171 956 7354

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Income Trusts:				
Bond Income	101.10	104.40†	- 0.70	6.98
Euro Pty Inc	111.10	118.20	- 0.40	2.75
-do- Accum	111.10	118.20	- 0.40	2.75
Gilt Yield	118.60	125.20†	- 0.30	6.45
Global Income	244.50	260.10†	- 1.00	3.07
High Yield	170.00	180.50	- 3.00	5.15
-do- Accum	567.60	603.60	- 10.50	5.15
Money Market	99.16	99.16†	+ 0.01	5.39
Smlr Cos Div	67.18	71.47†	- 0.39	3.62
Tomorrows Co Ex Acc	10.240	10.390	- 0.12	.
Capital Growth Trusts:				
Amer Smllr Cos	158.30	168.40†	- 0.90	
Asian Growth	322.70	343.30	- 3.60	..

MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0131 222 4242

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Maldon General	183.30	187.20		3.31

MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD
0800 363432

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
M & S Inv Ptflo	187.80	193.60	- 1.60	2.34
-do- Accum	225.10	232.00	- 1.90	2.34
UK Sel Ptflo	169.10	174.40	- 2.10	2.37
-do- Accum	205.90	212.30	- 2.50	2.37
UK 100 Cos	126.90	126.90†	- 1.60	2.47
-do- Accum	130.10	130.10†	- 1.70	2.47

MARLBOROUGH FUND MGRS LTD
01204 364 842

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Managed Tst	74.30	79.04		3.40

MARTIN CURRIE UNIT TRUSTS LTD

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Special Sits	163.70	174.20	- 2.10	1.31
-do- Accum	182.60	194.30	- 2.40	1.31
Technology	666.20	708.80	- 9.40	
UK Blue Chip	97.03	103.20†	- 0.80	2.84
-do- Accum	114.30	121.60	- 0.90	2.84

PRUDENTIAL UNIT TRUSTS LTD
Dealing: 0345 835505 Client Enq: 0345 835500

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Managed Tst	47.52	49.24	- 0.24	1.42
Cash Haven Inc	101.25	101.74†	+ 0.01	4.98
Cash Haven Acc	121.61	121.60	+ 0.01	4.98
Dist Trust Inc	111.13	115.16	- 0.87	5.44
Dist Trust Acc	127.54	132.17	- 1.00	5.44
Global Growth	111.17	118.27†	- 0.74	1.05
Equity Inc	96.22	102.36†	- 1.07	4.76
Equity	960.45	1010.21	- 10.40	2.19
European	298.74	307.50	- 1.02	0.62
High Income	97.90	104.15†	- 0.67	4.85
Intl Grth	232.40	247.23	- 0.98	0.80
Intl Sm Co	100.70	107.13	- 0.55	0.45
Japanese	168.53	172.57†	+ 0.69	...
Mgd Income Tst #	48.47	50.16†	- 0.27	8.04
Nth Amer	272.05	282.68	- 1.13	0.98
Pacific Mkts	115.46	119.65†	- 1.86	0.59
Premier Inc	48.29	50.26	- 0.16	6.55
Sm Cos	117.38	124.87	- 0.68	1.83
Spec Sits	138.55	147.39	- 1.33	2.33
UK Growth	161.24	171.54†	- 1.69	2.23

QUILTER FUND MANAGEMENT LTD
0171 497 5966

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Hi Inc Inv Inc	94.74	99.62†	- 0.14	3.25
Investment Trust	128.30	134.91†	- 0.33	0.56
UK Smaller Cos	122.91	128.24	- 0.82	1.32

RELIANCE UNIT MGRS LTD
01892 510 033

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
British Life	369.50	391.90	- 3.30	2.61

ROTHSCHILD FUND MANAGEMENT
Dealers: 0171 623 1000

Kwik-Fit up to speed in new era for investor relations

Morag Preston takes a look at the changing face of the annual report

Iverson: changed

True to its rallying call — "You can't get quicker than a Kwik-Fit fitter" — the car repair company yesterday delivered both its results and annual report yesterday, only 20 days after its financial year end.

Shareholders of other companies can only look on with envy. In the middle of the current reporting season, more investors are complaining about the time it takes most companies, regardless of size and diversity of operations, to publish their accounts. Most are now reporting preliminary results for calender 1996, with annual reports unlikely to published for several more weeks.

Tom Farmer, founder and chief executive of Kwik-Fit, claims to have saved the company both time and money by splitting the hard-core figures and Kwik-Fit story into separate documents — one with pictures, the other without. Mr Farmer says: "The biggest problems in the past have been delays in printing, trying to incorporate financial information into a big glossy brochure. But do you really need that colour? It should come in the results themselves."

On the basis that the majority of the company's shareholders look only at the balance sheet, the chairman's statement and the operations review, he claims to have saved them the trauma of wading through pages of incomprehensible figures. By publishing its financial results and operations review separately, Kwik-Fit has taken 39 days off the time it took to publish last year's report. It also made considerable savings: last year's report cost around £5.50 per copy to produce, compared with today's financial review at £1.80 and operations review at £2.20.

"We're in a new world now," says Mr Farmer, who predicts that it won't be long before the arrival of the quarterly report. "Because trading patterns are much more erratic, making it more difficult to forecast these days, if there should be a problem, this would be one way of removing uncertainty and surprises."

No stranger to surprises is NatWest. The banking group is under scrutiny from shareholders anxious to discover the origins of a £90 million black hole in the interest rate options trading department. Worse still, the "black hole discovery" landed only days before NatWest unveiled its annual results. Ironically, NatWest is at the forefront of the Plain English Campaign, crusading to make its documents not only pleasing to the eye but easier to understand.

"A lot of companies spend a lot of money sending out material to shareholders without thinking about its effectiveness," says Peter Hammonds, NatWest's company secretary. The bank has saved itself money, he says, by fine-tuning communication links with its 120,000 shareholders.

Barclays Bank used its annual report, published this week, to propose the introduction of a new-long term incentive plan for around 60 key BZW executives: this gives shareholders time to chew over the subject before the bank's annual meeting on April 22. The 165-page report also laid bare what its directors are paid.

Donald Butcher, president of the UK Shareholders Association, said: "So many companies still miss the overriding objective of an annual report: to answer why I should invest, why I should remain as an investor and what they have done to increase shareholder value? Companies are remarkably slow to come clean on these key issues." Mr Butcher added: "Utility companies missed the opportunity during privatisation to identify with small shareholders as customers, and prevent some of the ill feeling."

In the retail sector, where shareholders are customers, the Body Shop tries to inject some humour into its annual report. After three decades of campaigning for social change, Anita Roddick wrote in the 1995 report under the heading "Chairman's wife's statement". Printed on recycled paper, the report has evolved dramatically to include more colour and off-diary company news since the beauty emporium came to the market in 1984.

Laura Ashley's annual report underwent a dramatic overhaul when Ann Iverson took the helm as chief executive. The Texan troubleshooter completely refashioned the 1996 annual report, bringing it to life with a bold floral cover and glossy photographs.

Courtaulds profit depleted by costs of cutting its cloth

By Sarah Cunningham

RE-ORGANISATION at Courtaulds Textiles, which last week announced the closure of two factories in Nottingham, is ahead of plan but paying for it almost wiped out 1996 profits, the company revealed yesterday.

Pre-tax profits in the year to the end of December after exceptional items were £400,000 after exceptional charges. This compares with £36.5 million pre-tax profit in 1995.

Exceptional costs of £31.7 million were charged for 1996, covering cost reductions in existing businesses and shifting of manufacturing abroad. The decline in underlying profit to £32.1 million was mainly a result of a fall in earnings in American lace and stretch fabrics. Operating profits in lingerie and hosiery fell £4 million owing to poor trading conditions in France.

Eight businesses have been sold since June, while the Nottingham closures will swell the number of jobs lost by 340. The closures will end Courtaulds's lace production in the UK.

Trading across the group was stronger in the second half of last year. But over the year as a whole, an underlying profit advance of 31 per cent in the UK was more than offset by the effects of tough market conditions in the US and continental Europe, it said.

Sales to Marks & Spencer, its main customer, rose 8 per cent, to £306 million, and there was good margin recovery. Courtaulds is Marks & Spencer's leading supplier of lingerie, while also supplying the High Street retailer with casual wear and furnishings.

Colin Dyer, chief executive, said: "Our immediate objective is to build profit towards 1995 levels as the first important stage towards achieving our targeted 17 per cent return on average capital employed."

The operational goals for this year are to complete the reorganisation. Trading to date has continued in line with the second half of last year. Restucturing should result in annual cost savings of between £10 million and £13 million by 1998.

Earnings per share were 21.6p before exceptionals, compared with 29.2p a year ago. The company is maintaining its final dividend at 10.1p, giving a constant full-year payout of 15.3p. The final dividend is payable on May 16.

Colin Dyer replaced Noel Jervis as head of Courtaulds, Britain's second biggest textiles company, last June. In September, he announced a restructuring of the business that he said would cost up to £35 million.

Yesterday, he said: "The company's decisive actions produced an improved result in the second half, with pre-exceptional profit before tax slightly ahead of that achieved in the previous year."

Geest reveals £60m recipe for growth

By Sarah Cunningham

GEEST, the chilled food company, is planning to invest about £60 million on growth over two years.

The company, which sold its banana business at the beginning of last year, wants to make the most of consumer reliance on consumer foods "free from the distractions of the banana industry". Organic growth will be complemented by acquisitions, it said.

Geest invested £23 million last year and made a pre-tax profit of £17.3 million, compared with £10 million a year earlier. The sale of its banana business led to an exceptional profit of £18.2 million. The company has already bought Vaco, a Belgian manufacturer of chilled ready meals, although it plans to proceed with caution on the Continent until it has assessed potential demand.

Earnings rose 16.2p (9.6p) a share before exceptionals. Geest will pay a final dividend of 4.7p (4.4p), on July 1, which gives a total 8.4p (8.1p). The final dividend is payable on July 1.

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Luxembourg	(LFr)	9164	51%	5040	2635	1527	2611
Netherlands	(Dfl)	778	45%	428	224	130	188
Switzerland	(SFr)	809	35%	445	232	135	177
Rest of Europe	(£)	474	n/a	237	118.5	79.04	130

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CHANGING TIMES

Irish Life shakes off US slump

From Eileen McCabe in Dublin

STRONG second-half sales of Irish Life's new range of savings and investment products in the Republic of Ireland helped to offset a sluggish performance in its US operations, the company said as it revealed a 3 per cent increase in annual pre-tax profits to Ir£153 million.

The Republic's largest insurance company said the new range boosted sales in Ireland by 32 per cent to Ir£36 million in the second half, giving an annual increase of 11 per cent. However, US sales fell 15 per cent over the year, largely because of the downturn in the fixed annuity market. Overall operating profit was up almost 9 per cent to Ir£93 million.

Irish Life is currently completing a Ir£100 million acquisition of Guarantee Reserve, an Illinois life insurance company, which will almost double its US operations.

The final dividend of 8.5p makes a total of 12.05p, up 9.5 per cent, payable on May 23.

Suitors queuing up for Sulzer Medica flotation

SULZER, the Swiss engineering multinational, has been bombarded with propositions for takeovers, acquisitions, mergers and joint ventures since it announced that its medical division is to be quoted separately in New York and Switzerland.

Fritz Farhni, chief executive, said Sulzer had received about two approaches a week. The group will float a quarter of Sulzer Medica, which makes heart pacemakers, hip joints and other surgical products. Its sales grew 11 per cent to SFr1.16 billion (£500 million) in 1996, but profits were hit by net one-off charges of SFr73 million.

Coupled with heavy restructuring costs, this cut the group's net profit by 11 per cent to SFr82 million. It forecasts substantial improvement this year.

ALAN WELLER

QMH executives Andrew Coppel, left, Andrew Le Poidevin and Michael Cairns now aim to improve margins

QMH back in the black as net debt falls

By Alasdair Murray

QUEENS MOAT HOUSES, the debt-laden hotel group, returned to profit last year and predicted that it could boost margins significantly in 1997.

QMH yesterday reported full-year profits, excluding tax, of £4.6 million, compared with a loss of £2.5 million in 1995. Operating profit from continuing businesses rose 25 per cent to £55 million.

Net borrowings were reduced from £1 billion to £842 million after the sale of a number of properties last year. Debt has been reduced further since the year end with the sale of 25 hotels for £92 million. The company said it now has only one hotel on the market.

Profits from the UK hotels increased 11.7 per cent to £33.5 million. Like-for-like occupancy rates increased 2 percentage points to 71.2 per cent while average room rates increased 8.6 per cent to £48.02. QMH is aiming to develop its bar, restaurant and fitness concepts to improve profit margins.

In Germany operating profits quadrupled to £4.4 million after improved cost control. But occupany rates were flat at 60.3 per cent while room rates fell slightly.

The Dutch hotels increased profits 23 per cent to £12.1 million, with rises in both occupancy levels and room rates. Improved cost control also helped the French hotel portfolio to break even, compared with a loss of £700,000 in 1995, although occupancy and rates declined again. The Belgian hotels slipped to an operating loss of £300,000 from a profit of £800,000 in the previous year.

QMH added that trading remained strong and rates and occupancy were improving. But the company said the rise of sterling and post-election interest rate rises could have a negative impact on profits.

T&N buys Metal Leve for $54m

T&N, the UK automotive components company, is acquiring Metal Leve Inc, an American manufacturer of articulated pistons for diesel engines used mainly in heavy duty trucks, for a total of $54 million (Martin Barrow writes).

The company is paying $46 million in cash and assuming debts of $8 million.

Metal Leve has manufacturing facilities in South Carolina and a technical centre in Michigan. It is currently owned by Metal Leve SA, the Brazilian bearing and piston manufacturer, and employs about 350 people.

In 1996 the business reported profits of $4.1 million before interest and tax on sales of $63 million. The company's net assets are approximately $33 million.

The acquisition is subject to approval by the Federal Trade Commission, which is expected by early May.

Purchases help IAWS to Ir£6m

Good contributions from acquisitions and steady trade in all divisions boosted interim pre-tax profits at IAWS, the Irish agri-food company, by 27 per cent to Ir£6.1 million.

Sales in the six months to January 31 grew 10 per cent to Ir£270 million. The group owns the Shamrock Foods distribution network and has fertiliser, animal feed and fish protein operations in the Republic of Ireland and the UK.

Earnings per share increased 39 per cent to 3.89p. The company declared an interim dividend of 1.5p, payable on June 23, a rise of 10 per cent.

Restaurant deal

Groupe Chez Gerard, the London restaurant group, has agreed to acquire Grill St Quentin and Brasserie St Quentin, two Knightsbridge restaurants, for £2 million. In 1996 the restaurants earned pre-tax profits of £400,000 on turnover of £2.6 million. Net assets were £600,000 at December 31.

Gardens grow

Country Gardens, the garden centre group with 32 outlets in the South East, reported a rise in 1996 pre-tax profits to £2.27 million, from £1.20 million, on turnover that rose to £34.7 million (£23.5 million). Earnings were 10.7p a share (5p). The dividend is 1.60p (1.38p).

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Chateau Cocove 3*, Recques-sur-Hem
18th century chateau approx. 15 min. drive from Calais. Overlooks peaceful park and has a wine shop in the Chateau cellars. £78pp (RO) - extra night £30pp.
Chateau de la Motte Fenelon 3*, Cambrai
19th century chateau situated in 8 acres of wooded park, near the historic town of Cambrai. £78pp (RO) - extra night £29pp.
La Tour du Roy 3*, Vervins en Thierache
Former manor house which has welcomed some very famous guests from Henry IV to Francois Mitterand. £80pp (RO) - extra night £30pp.
Chateau de la Redoute Hostellerie des Trois Mousquetaries 4*, Aire-sur-la-Lys
Comfortable 19th century chateau set in a wooded park with lake and gardens. £94pp (RO) - extra night £39pp.
Chateau Hesdin-L'Abbe Hotel Clery 3*, Hesdin-L'Abbe
18th century chateau situated amongst rolling Boulonnais hills. £94pp (BB) - extra night £37pp.
Chateau Tilques 3*, Tilques
19th century chateau set in extensive grounds. £98pp (BB) - extra night £39pp.
La Chartreuse Du Val St Esprit 4*, Gosnay
Former monastery in quiet parklands, close to the village of Gosnay. £104pp (RO) - extra night £45pp.

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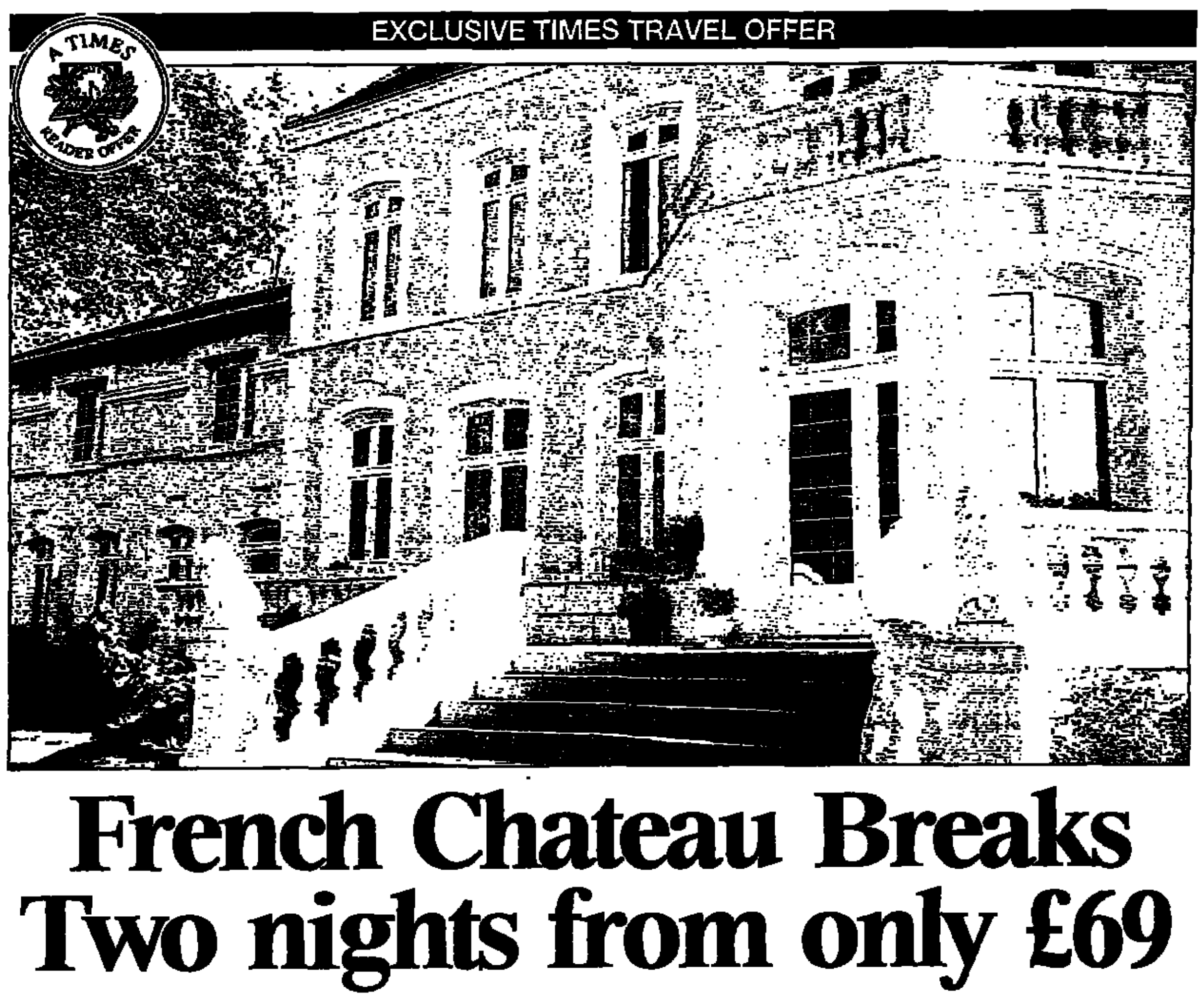

Law Report March 21 1997

House of Lords

Cost relevant in assessing needs of sick

Regina v *Gloucestershire* County Council and Another, Ex parte Barry
Same v Same

Before Lord Lloyd of Berwick, Lord Nicholls of Birkenhead, Lord Steyn, Lord Hoffmann and Lord Clyde

[Speeches March 20]

The cost of the arrangements and its resources were a proper consideration *for a local authority* to take into account in assessing, under section 2(1) of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970, whether a person had a need and whether it was necessary to make arrangements to meet it.

The House of Lords allowed by a majority (Lord Lloyd and Lord Steyn dissenting) an appeal by Gloucestershire County Council from the Court of Appeal (*The Times* July 12, 1966; [1996] 4 All ER 421) who by a majority (Lord Justice Swinton Thomas and Sir John Balcombe, Lord Justice Hirst dissenting) had allowed an appeal by Mr Michael Barry against part of a decision of the Queen's Bench *Divisional Court* (Lord Justice McCowan and Mr Justice Waller) (*The Times* June 21, 1995; (1995) 30 BMLR 20) granting judicial review of decisions of the council to withdraw services under section 2 from Mr Barry but refusing his application *for an additional* declaration that the council had not been entitled to take account of the resources available to them.

Section 2(1) of the 1970 Act, as amended by section 14(1) of and paragraph 12 of Schedule 2 to the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970, section 272(1) of and Schedule 30 to the Local Government Act 1972 and section 66 of and paragraph 12 of Schedule 9 and Schedule 10 to the National Health Service and Community Care Act 1990) provides:

"Where a local authority having functions under section 29 of the National Assistance Act 1948 are satisfied in the case of any person to whom that section applies who is ordinarily resident in their area that it is necessary *in order* to meet the needs of that person for that authority to make arrangements for all or any of the *following* matters [(a) to (h)], then ... it shall be the duty of that authority to make those arrangements..."

Mr Patrick Eccles, QC and Mr Christopher Frazer for the council: Mr Nigel Pleming, *QC and Mr* Steven Kovats for the Secretary of State for Health: Mr Richard Gordon, QC, Mr Alan Maclean and Mr Stephen Cragg for Mr Barry.

LORD LLOYD, *dissenting*, said that Mr Barry was coming up for his eighty second birthday. In 1992 he had been in hospital after a slight stroke. He had also had several heart attacks and could not see well. He lived alone, although two friends called from time to time to do things for him. He got around with a walking frame, having fractured his hip some years ago.

In September 1992 his needs had *been assessed by the* council as "Home care to call twice a week for shopping, pension, laundry, cleaning. Meals on wheels four days a week." The council had arranged to provide those services. In August 1993, after a routine visit, his *needs had been assessed as the* same.

Then on September 29, 1994 he had had a letter from the council regretting that they would no longer be able to provide him with his full needs as assessed. Cleaning and laundry services would be withdrawn.

The reason given was that the money allocated to the council by central government had been reduced by £2.5 million and there was "nowhere near enough to meet demand". The letter had been sympathetic in tone.

Mr Barry, with others, had brought *proceedings for judicial* review. His case was that his needs were the same as they had always been. Parliament had imposed a duty on the council to do what was necessary to meet them and it was *no answer that they were short of* money. The council's case was that in assessing his needs they were entitled to have regard to their overall financial resources.

How, his Lordship asked, could *resources help to measure* the need? It could not have been Parliament's intention that a local authority should be able to say: "because we do not have enough resources, we are going to reduce your needs". The needs remained exactly the same. They could not be affected by the authority's inability to meet them.

Every child needed a new pair of shoes from time to time. The need was not the less because his parents could *not* afford them. Nor could Parliament have intended that there should be different standards for measuring the needs of the disabled in Bermondsey and in Belgrave Square.

His Lordship had read the *evidence relating to the council's* resources with something approaching despair. By their Lordships' majority decision the council had escaped from the *impossible position in which they* and other authorities had been placed, but he could not help wondering whether they would not be regretting the decision as much as Mr Barry.

The solution lay with the government. The passing of the 1970 Act had been a noble aspiration. Having willed the end, Parliament must be asked to provide the means.

LORD NICHOLLS said that at first sight Mr Barry's contentions were compelling, but his argument to the effect that his needs had not changed was flawed by a failure to recognise that needs for services *could not sensibly be assessed* without having some regard to the cost of providing them.

In deciding whether the disability of a particular person dictated a need for assistance, and at what *level, some* criteria had to be used. One important factor was what constituted an acceptable standard of living. That standard was to be set by the local authority, acting by its social services committee.

The cost would be balanced against the benefit and the need for it. In deciding how much weight was to be given to cost some evaluation or assumption had to be made about the impact that it would have on the authority.

It was of more or less significance depending on whether the authority currently had more or less money. Thus, depending on its financial position, the eligibility criteria, setting out the degree of disability that had to exist before *help would be provided with* laundry, cleaning or whatever, might properly be more or less stringent.

His Lordship could see no basis *for reading into* section 2 of the 1970 Act an implication that in assessing needs cost was to be ignored. He did not believe Parliament had intended that to be the position.

Lord Steyn agreed with Lord Lloyd.

Lord Hoffmann agreed with Lord Nicholls and Lord Clyde.

LORD CLYDE said that "necessary" and "needs" were relative expressions, admitting a considerable range of meaning. They were not defined in the Act and dictionary definitions did not help.

In deciding whether there was a necessity to meet the needs of the individual some criteria had to be provided. In the framing of those criteria the severity of a condition might have to be matched against the availability of resources.

Such an exercise accorded with everyday domestic experience in relation to things that one did not have. If one's resources were limited one had to need a thing very much before being satisfied that it was necessary to buy it.

It might also be observed that the range of the facilities listed in paragraphs (a) to (h) of section 2(1) of the 1970 Act was so extensive as to make it unlikely that Parliament had intended that they might all be provided regardless of the cost.

It was not necessary to hold that cost and resources were always an element in determining the necessity. It was enough for present purposes to recognise that they might be a proper consideration.

Solicitors: Mr Robert Wotherspoon, Gloucester; Solicitor, Department of Health; Ms Karen Ashton.

Bureau must be served with evidence of proceedings

Cambridge v Callaghan and Another

Before Lord Justice Kennedy, Lord Justice Millett and Mr Justice Mance

[Judgment March 11]

In order to ensure the Motor Insurers' Bureau met the liability of uninsured drivers it was a mandatory requirement that it be served with official evidence of instigation of proceedings either by way of a copy of the stamped writ or by a copy of the notice of issue of default summons.

The Court of Appeal so stated *when allowing a cross-appeal* by Michael Cambridge on appeal by the Motor Insurers' Bureau against an order of Judge Townend at Blackpool County Court on July 19, 1996.

The judge had allowed Mr Cambridge's appeal from a district judge's decision that the condition precedent of liability on the part of MIB to satisfy judgment obtained against an uninsured driver was not met.

Mr Cambridge had been injured in a motor accident allegedly due to the negligence of Peter Callaghan, an uninsured driver untraced at the issue of proceedings. MIB was joined as second defendant and disputed that it had been given notice in the form prescribed by clause 5 of the agreement by which it agreed to meet the liability of uninsured drivers.

Mr Cambridge's solicitor had sent a letter to MIB notifying the bringing of proceedings and *enclosing a notice of issue of a* default summons.

Clause 5 of the Motor Insurers' Bureau (Compensation of Victims of Uninsured Drivers) Agreement of December 21, 1988 issued by the Department of Transport provides:

"(1) MIB shall not incur any liability under Clause 2 ... unless — (a) notice in writing of the bringing of proceedings is given within seven days after the commencement of the proceedings — (i) to MIB ... or (ii) to the insurer. Such notice shall be accompanied by a copy of the writ, summons or other document initiating the proceedings..."

Mr Dermod O'Brien, QC and Mr James McKeon for MIB: Mr David Stockdale, QC and Mr Seamus Andrews for Mr Cambridge.

LORD JUSTICE MILLET said that two points arose on the cross appeal: *First, whether* on the proper construction of clause 5(1), the sentence: "Such notice ... proceedings" was a discrete requirement or part of the condition precedent.

His Lordship was satisfied that it was part of the condition precedent; it formed part of the grammatical sense of the whole of clause 5(1). If not complied with, the condition precedent was not satisfied.

The second issue concerned whether the word "shall" was mandatory and whether notice of issue of default summons, as in the present case, was sufficient to comply.

His Lordship agreed that "shall" was mandatory and that in itself a notice of issue of default summons was not an initiating process.

The requirements of the condition that "notice must be accompanied..." therefore meant *it had to be read in the light* of its evident purpose and in conjunction with the rules of the court. The manifest purpose was to provide the MIB not only with notice, but also with official proof including the date issued and the issuing court. Therefore a copy of an unstamped writ or notice of issue would not suffice.

In the High Court, proceedings were initiated when a writ was issued by the court officer stamping it and returning it to the *plaintiff's solicitor*. A copy of that document should be sent to the MIB.

In the county court there were two procedures:

One similar to the High Court procedure was where the plaintiff's solicitor prepared and filed a summons and an order was entered in the court record by an officer who then returned the original to the plaintiff's solicitor. The solicitor would then be in possession of a stamped copy.

The second procedure was earlier and designed probably for litigants in person, which left service to be instigated by the court officer. The plaintiff filed a request *for issue of default summons* which the court officer issued. The officer then delivered notice of issue to the plaintiff or his solicitor. In that situation, it was important to note, that the plaintiff's solicitor might have no copy of a stamped summons in his possession.

How then was clause 5(1) to be construed where the plaintiff had adopted that second original form of procedure?

The condition required MIB to be served with official evidence of *instigation of proceedings, either* by way of a copy of the stamped writ or by a copy of the notice of issue of default summons. It was absurd to require a copy of a stamped summons rather than evidence of its issue.

Thus his Lordship agreed that the requirement was mandatory, but his Lordship *did* not think that supply of an officially stamped writ was essential.

Either a copy of a stamped writ *or official evidence that it had been* issued was required. Thus in the present case the plaintiff's solicitor's letter did comply and the cross-appeal would be allowed.

Lord Justice Kennedy and Mr Justice Mance agreed.

Solicitors: Weightmans, Liverpool; Blackhursts, Blackpool.

Power to order detention of child for treatment

In re C (a Minor) (Medical treatment: Court's jurisdiction)

Before Mr Justice Wall

[Judgment March 5]

A clinic whose primary purpose was to provide treatment for eating disorders was not "secure accommodation" within the meaning of section 25 of the Children Act 1989; accordingly that section, which *regulated the placement and retention* of minors in secure accommodation, did not operate to fetter the court's inherent jurisdiction to make orders in a child's best interests, and therefore the court had power to direct that the child should be *detained* as an in-patient at the clinic for the purposes of medical treatment, using reasonable force if necessary.

Mr Justice Wall so held in the Family Division in a reserved judgment handed down in chambers and reported with leave of the judge when granting an application by the local authority for an order made pursuant to the High Court's inherent jurisdiction to detain a child aged 16 in a clinic so that the child could be treated for an eating disorder.

Miss Alison Ball, QC, for the local authority; Mr Roderic Wood, QC, for the child; Mr David G. P. Turner for the parents; Mr James Munby, QC, as amicus curiae.

MR JUSTICE WALL said that the child was suffering from anorexia nervosa and had a history of absconding from the clinic. *The local authority did not wish to* apply for a care order for good reasons.

Even though the child maintained she was in agreement with the treatment she was receiving and that there was no need for an order, the clinic was now only prepared to accept her back under either a care order or as a ward of court.

The question was whether the court, exercising its inherent jurisdiction, had the power to detain a child aged 16 in a specified institution for the purposes of medical treatment.

In *In re W (a Minor) (Medical treatment: Court's jurisdiction)* ([1993] Fam 64) was Court of Appeal authority for the proposition that the court's powers under its parens patriae jurisdiction were theoretically limitless *and extended to authorising* doctors to treat a minor in accordance with their clinical judgment.

Furthermore, two recent cases, *Norfolk and Norwich Healthcare (NHS) Trust v W* ([1996] 2 FLR 613) and *Rochdale Healthcare (NHS) Trust v C* ([1997] 1 FCR 274) had confirmed that the court had power at common law to authorise the use of reasonable force if necessary.

On the evidence, residence in the clinic was an essential component of her treatment. The child's welfare was *paramount* and it was clearly in her best interests to be treated.

Accordingly, the court had the power to direct that the clinic should detain her as an in-patient, using reasonable force if necessary, until she was discharged by her doctors or the court ordered otherwise.

If, however, it could be shown that the clinic was secure accommodation within the meaning of section 25 of the Children Act 1989 the court's inherent jurisdiction would be ousted.

It was well established that premises not designed as secure accommodation could become so by virtue of the use to which they *were put but, as the clinic's* primary purpose was the treatment of the sick, it was not "accommodation provided for the purpose of restricting liberty" and section 25 did not operate.

Even so, careful attention should be paid to the section 25 criteria so that rights and safeguards given to a child under that section were made available in the order and it was plainly right that any such order should be of limited duration *and subject to early review.*

Solicitors: Mr Christopher Hinde, Hackney; Bindman & Partners; Goodman Ray; Official Solicitor.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

LEGAL NOTICES

THE ARCHITECTS REGISTRATION BOARD
DRAFT CODE LAYING DOWN STANDARDS OF PROFESSIONAL *CONDUCT AND PRACTICE*

1. At the behest of the Department of the Environment, the Architects Registration Board held a preliminary meeting on 14 March 1997.
2. Section 7ZB of the Architects Registration Act 1931 ("the Act") as amended by the Housing Grants Construction and Regeneration Act 1996 states:

(1) The Board shall *issue* a code laying down standards of professional conduct and practice expected of registered persons.
(2) The Board shall keep the code under review and vary its provisions whenever it considers it appropriate to do so.
(3) Before issuing or varying the code, the Board shall-
(a) consult such *professional* bodies and such other persons with an interest in architecture as it considers appropriate; and
(b) publish in such manner as it considers appropriate notice that it proposes to issue or vary the code, stating where copies of the proposals can be obtained.
(4) Failure by a registered person to comply with the provisions of the code-
(a) shall not be taken of itself to constitute unacceptable professional conduct or serious professional incompetence on his part; but
(b) shall be taken into account in any proceedings *against* him under Section 7.
(5) The Board shall provide a copy of the code to any person who requests one by payment of a reasonable charge determined by the Board (and may provide a copy free of charge whenever it considers appropriate).

3. At its meeting on 14 March 1997 the Board had before it a draft document entitled 'Architects Registration Board Code of Professional Conduct and Practice' ('the Code') which is a draft of the document referred to in Section 7ZB(1) of the Act. The Board then directed that there be consultation as specified in section 7ZB(3)(a) of the Act about this draft. It specified a period of eight weeks from the date of its meeting for this consultation; therefore, any observations made should be in this office on 9 May 1997 at latest.
4. The Board proposes to issue the draft Code to take effect as the document which it has to issue under Section 7ZB of the Act and is now consulting; any observations made to the Board as part of the consultation are to be sent to the Registrar at the address below so as to arrive not later than 9 May 1997.
5. Copies of the draft Code can be obtained from 73 Hallam Street, London, W1N 6EE.

In the Matter of Kingfisher (Stour Park) Limited
and in the Matter of the Insolvency Act and Rules 1986

In accordance with Rule 4.106, I, Melvyn Julian Carter of Carter Backer Winter, Hill House, Highgate Hill, London, N19 5UU, give notice that on 6 March 1997 I was appointed Liquidator by resolutions of members.

Notice is hereby given that the creditors of the above named company, which is being voluntarily wound up, are required, on or before the 18 April 1997 to send in their full christian and surnames, their addresses and descriptions, full particulars of their debts or claims and the names and addresses of their Solicitors (if any), to the undersigned Melvyn Julian Carter of Hill House, Highgate Hill, London, N19 5UU, the Liquidator *of the said company, and, if so* required by notice in writing from the said Liquidator, are, personally or by their Solicitors, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution.

Note: This notice is purely formal. All creditors have been or will be paid in full.

Dated: 12 March 1997
M J Carter, Liquidator

APPLICATION FOR NEW LICENCE.
TO: ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

I, MARK WINTER who has resided for the past six months at 126 Trentham Street, London SW18 5DJ and carried on the trade or calling during the aforesaid period of six months of Restaurateur DO HEREBY GIVE YOU NOTICE that it is MY intention to apply at the Licensing Sessions for the Licensing Division of SOUTH CENTRAL to be held at CAMBERWELL GREEN MAGISTRATES COURT, 15 D'Eynsford Road, London SE5 7UP on MONDAY the 7TH day of APRIL 1997 AT 10.30 AM in the forenoon for the provisional grant to ME of a Justices On Licence authorising ME to sell by retail at the premises situate at 1 Sandell Street, Waterloo, London SE1 in the said Licensing Division intoxicating liquor of all descriptions for consumption ON the premises.

GIVEN UNDER OUR HANDS THIS 14TH DAY OF MARCH 1997
SWEPSTONE WALSH
9 Lincoln's Inn Fields
London WC2A 3BP
Solicitors for and on behalf of the
Applicant duly authorised.
ab/mm/corr.winter

No 00118 of 1997
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
IN THE MATTER OF CAMPBELL & ARMSTRONG PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANY
and
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 5 March 1997 confirming the reduction of the share premium account of the above mentioned company and the reduction in the capital of the above mentioned company from *£9,997,200* to *£7,497,200* and the Minute approved by the Court showing with respect to the capital of the company as altered the several particulars required by *the above mentioned* Act were registered by the Registrar of the Companies on 12 March 1997.

Dated this 17 day of March 1997
Eversheds, London Scottish House, 24 Mount Street, Manchester M2 3DB
Solicitors for the above named Company
Tel: 0161 832 6666
Fax: 0161 832 5337
Ref: CJM

No. 00630 of 1997
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY LANE DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
IN THE MATTER OF BRITISH THORNTON HOLDINGS PLC
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 5th March 1997 confirming the reduction of the capital of the above-named Company from £10,500,000 to £4,832,396.23 and the Minute approved by the court showing with respect to the capital of the Company as altered the several particulars required by the above-mentioned Act were registered by the Registrar of Companies on 17 March 1997.

DATED this 19th day of March 1997
Travers Smith Braithwaite
10 Snow Hill
London
EC1A 2AL
Tel: 0171 248 9133
Fax: 0171 236 3728
DX: 79 London
Ref: AMS
1

THE ARCHITECTS REGISTRATION BOARD
DRAFT GENERAL RULES
DRAFT INVESTIGATION RULES
DRAFT PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT COMMITTEE RULES

1. Section 13 Architects Registration Act 1931 ('the Act') as amended by the Housing Grants Construction and Regeneration Act 1996 states:

(1) The Board may make rules generally for carrying out or facilitating the purposes of this Act.

(2) The Board shall, before making any rules under this Act, publish a draft of the rules and give those to whom the rules would be applicable an opportunity of making representations to the Board

2. At the behest of the Department of the Environment the Architects Registration Board held a preliminary meeting on 14 March 1997 at which it considered the draft rules identified at the head of this Notice. It then decided that the draft rules should be published and to give those to whom the rules would be applicable an opportunity of making representations to the Board.

3. The date by which such representations are to be received by the Board is 11 April 1997.

4. Any person desiring copies of any or all of the draft rules identified at the head hereof may receive such by making application to the *Registrar at 73*, Hallam Street, London, W1N 6EE.

THE WAGON WHEEL LIMITED

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 175 of the Companies Act that on the 19th day of March 1997 the above named Company approved a payment of forty-two thousand five hundred and sixty pounds (£42,560.00) out of capital for the purpose of purchasing 500 of its own shares; that the Statutory Declaration of the Directors and the Auditors' Report required by Section 173 of the Companies Act 1985 are available for inspection at the Company's registered office, being 33 Market Place, Willenhall, West Midlands WV13 2AA; and that any creditor of the Company may at any time within the five weeks immediately following the aforementioned date apply to the Court under Section 176 of the Companies Act 1985 for an Order prohibiting the payment. Mr & Mrs. G Giuliano, Directors.

SMEDVIG TANKSHIP (AGENCIES) LIMITED
COMPANY NUMBER: 2799441
(IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Rules 4.182A and 11.2 of the Insolvency Rules 1986, that the liquidator of the above company intends to make a distribution to the creditors within four months of Friday 25 April 1997. Creditors are required to submit full details of their claims to the liquidator, Peter Joseph Beirne at KPMG Corporate Recovery, PO Box 730, 20 Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4PP on or before Friday 25 April 1997 which is the last day for proving claims. The full details of claims, referred to above, must include the creditor's name and address, the amount of the claim and particulars *of how* and when the debt was incurred by the company.

Notice is also given that the intended distribution is a final distribution and will be made without regard to any claims not made by the last day for proving claims. All funds remaining in the liquidator's hands following *the final distribution to creditors* shall be distributed to the shareholders absolutely.

Note: the company is able to pay all its known creditors in full.

Dated: 10 March 1997
Peter Joseph Beirne - Liquidator

LEGAL, PUBLIC,
COMPANY
& PARLIAMENTARY
NOTICES

TO PLACE NOTICES FOR
THIS SECTION
PLEASE TELEPHONE

0171 680 6878
OR
FAX: 0171 481 9313

Notices are subject to
confirmation and should be
received by 2.30pm two
days prior to insertion.

Court of Appeal

Subjective test for dating knowledge of injury

Spargo v North Essex District Health Authority

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Brooke and Lord Justice Waller

[Judgment March 13]

To establish the date of a plaintiff's knowledge as to the causation of *his injury for the purposes of the* Limitation Act 1980, a subjective test was to be applied: what the plaintiff himself knew and not what would have been the reasonable layman's state of mind in the *absence of expert confirmation.*

The Court of Appeal so held in reserved judgments allowing an appeal by the defendant, North Essex District Health Authority, from the judgment on the trial of a preliminary issue whereby Mr Justice Collins had declared that the claim of the plaintiff, Jose Ann Spargo, for damages for injury caused as a result of mistaken medical diagnosis was not statute barred by sections 11 and 14 of the 1980 Act.

Mr Terence Coghlan, QC, for the health authority: Mr Simeon Maskrey, QC and Mr Andrew Buchan for the plaintiff.

LORD JUSTICE BROOKE said that the plaintiff, now aged 67, complained that a negligent diagnosis made 22 years ago had led to her being detained in a psychiatric hospital from 1975 until 1981, much longer than was necessary, and had had a catastrophic effect on her life.

In April 1975, having been found wandering about in her nightdress in an emaciated state, *she had been* compulsorily admitted to hospital. The consultant psychiatrist had *diagnosed the plaintiff* as suffering from selective brain damage resulting from excessive purging and dieting. It was now common ground that that diagnosis was mistaken.

The writ in the action was issued in 1993, 12 years after the plaintiff's release from hospital. Her charge of professional negligence was based on failure, once the diagnosis was made, to refer her to a neurologist for further investigations including a brain scan.

The judge found that the plaintiff did not have the requisite knowledge for the purposes of section 11(4) of the 1980 Act until a date not more than three years before *she issued her writ* so that her action was not statute barred.

Section 14(1) provided that references to a person's date of knowledge were "references to the date on which he first had knowledge of the *following facts* — (a) that the injury in question was significant; and (b) that the injury was attributable in whole or in part to the act or omission which is alleged to constitute negligence..."

In 1986 the plaintiff had first consulted solicitors with a view to making a claim, not knowing whether she had a case or not. But clearly in her mind at that time all her suffering was attributable to *the mistaken diagnosis* of organic brain damage.

But the judge held that for section 14(1) purposes the plaintiff did not have actual knowledge that her sufferings were attributable to the misdiagnosis until 1991 when she received for the first time positive expert psychiatric evidence.

Although there was no question in the plaintiff's own mind that her sufferings were attributable to the *misdiagnosis, the judge had found* that she did not have the requisite knowledge until 1991.

The judge went on to hold that she could *not* be fixed with constructive knowledge for section 14(3) purposes because she had taken all reasonable steps to obtain expert advice and should not be *prejudiced* by the long time taken by her solicitor in obtaining it.

On the face of it, therefore, the plaintiff knew in 1986 of her injury *and of the causally relevant omission* said to constitute negligence and of the possible connection between the two. Why then did the judge find that she did *not* have the requisite knowledge for the purposes of section 14(1)(b)?

He appeared to have been influenced in his approach by *Nash v Eli Lilly & Co* ([1993] 1 WLR 782, 795-6) where Lord Justice Purchas had endeavoured to explain the state of mind that had to *be attributed to a plaintiff before* he could be fixed with knowledge.

Lord Justice Purchas had contrasted the person who thought his condition was capable of being attributed to the act or omission alleged to constitute negligence, but who realised *that* that belief should be confirmed by an expert before it could be said that he knew that it was, with the person whose firm belief was of sufficient certainty to justify obtaining advice about making a *claim* for compensation: "then such belief is knowledge and the limitation period would begin to run".

The judge had substituted the much tougher test of proof of causation for the *much less rigorous* test of attributability, in the sense that the identified injury was capable of being attributed to the identified omission.

The test was a subjective one: what did the *plaintiff herself* know? It was not an objective test: what would have been the reasonable layman's state of mind in the absence of expert confirmation?

Nash was concerned with 18 *plaintiffs who had claimed* a causal connection between their having taken Opren and their experiencing the unpleasant symptoms from which they suffered.

The Court of Appeal was at pains to say that the person who thought that her condition was capable of being attributed to the drugs she had taken but realised that her belief should be confirmed by a doctor did not have *the* requisite knowledge.

But that was a long way from the present case where the judge found that the plaintiff was clear in her mind that the connection was there between the misdiagnosis and what she had suffered when she came to her solicitor for advice.

In such a case it was not necessary, nor required by the statute, for a court to embark on a further inquiry as to whether a rational lay person would have been willing to say that she knew *that there was a possible causal* connection between her suffering and the omission she had identified without first going to a doctor to seek confirmation.

Lord Justice Nourse and Lord Justice Waller agreed.

Solicitors: Le Brasseur J. Tickle; Gadsby Wicks, Chelmsford.

Plaintiff can apply to set aside default judgment

O'Neill v O'Brien and Another

Before Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Simon Brown and Lord Justice Schiemann

[Judgment March 10]

A plaintiff could apply under Order 37, rule 4 of the County Court Rules 1981 to set aside a judgment obtained in default against a defendant.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal by the second defendant, the Motor Insurers' *Bureau, against the decision of* Judge Bernstein at Birkenhead County Court on April 30, 1996 to uphold the setting aside by a district judge of a judgment in default obtained by the plaintiff, Michael O'Neill, against the first defendant, Christopher O'Brien, following a road traffic accident.

Order 37, rule 4 of the 1981 Rules provides: "(1) ... the court may, on application or of its own motion, set aside, vary or confirm any judgment entered in a *default* action pursuant to Order 9, rule 6."

Mr Anthony Seys Llewellyn for the MIB: Mr Nigel Lawrence for the plaintiff; the first defendant did not appear and was not *represented.*

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that in March 1995 the plaintiff had obtained judgment in default of defence pursuant to Order 9, rule 6 against the first defendant for damages to be *assessed. In August 1995 damages* were assessed at £10,007.20.

Subsequently, the plaintiff's solicitors had sought to obtain payment from the MIB but it had taken the point that the sum was *not payable* because it had *not* been informed, in accordance with the Motor Insurers' Bureau (Compensation of Victims of Uninsured Drivers) Agreement (1988), of the date when damages were to be assessed.

The plaintiff's solicitors then took the view that the appropriate way of obtaining recovery from the MIB was to apply to the court to have the judgment set aside so that they could commence a fresh action.

Under Order 37, rule 4 there was no requirement that an application to set aside a judgment should be made by a particular party. However, the MIB contended that the *judgment was perfectly properly* obtained, that the defendant had no defence and that, in those circumstances, it had not been appropriate for the court to set the *judgment aside.*

In his Lordship's judgment, Order 37, rule 4 was deliberately drawn in wide terms to allow a *plaintiff* or the court to set aside a judgment if it was appropriate to do so. It was true that the rule would normally be relied on by a defendant but it was not confined to applications by defendants.

If the present judgment was not set aside there would undoubtedly be an argument whether the MIB was under any *liability. Further,* the MIB had been deprived of making any representations on the assessment of damages.

It was in everybody's interest and certainly in the interests of *justice that the judgment should* be set aside so that a needless dispute of a technical nature should be avoided.

Lord Justice Simon Brown and Lord Justice Schiemann agreed.

Solicitors: Lace Mawer, Liverpool; Michael W. Halsall, Newton-le-Willows.

Title request must be within limit

Urban Manor Ltd v Sadiq

Before Lord Justice Staughton, Lord Justice Roch and Lord Justice Morritt

[Judgment February 20]

On a sale of registered land, where *the vendor was not the registered* proprietor and where the contract was subject to the National Conditions of Sale (20th edition), the purchaser's request that the vendor make title under section 110(5) of the Land Registration Act 1925 had to be made, at the latest, within the time limited by condition 9 for the purchaser's observations on replies to his requisitions on title. The purchaser was not entitled to wait until the day fixed for completion before making the request.

The Court of Appeal so held in reserved judgments, dismissing an appeal by Mohammed Sadiq, the purchaser, against the decision of Mr John Martin, QC, sitting as a deputy judge of the Chancery Division on December 21, 1995, that a contract for the sale of land by the vendor, Urban Manor Ltd, to the purchaser, had been effectively rescinded and that the *vendor was entitled to forfeit the* deposit.

Section 110 of the Land Registration Act 1925 provides:

"On a sale or other disposition of registered land to a purchaser *other than a lessee or chargee* ... (5) Where the vendor is not himself registered as proprietor of the land ... he shall at the request of the purchaser and at his own expense, and notwithstanding any stipulation to the contrary, either procure the registration of himself as proprietor of the land .... or procure a disposition from the proprietor to the purchaser..."

Mr John Norman for the purchaser; Mr Gordon Nurse for the vendor.

LORD JUSTICE MORRITT said that the judge was right to construe "stipulation to the contrary" *in section 110(5)* as not embracing a limitation on the time within which the request might be made.

There was no reason why Parliament should have intended that a purchaser to whom subsisting entries on the register had been furnished pursuant to section 110(1), should be entitled to wait until the day fixed for completion before requesting the vendor to make title in one of the ways *provided by subsection (5).*

The application of condition 9 of the National Conditions did not have the opposite or contrary effect for it permitted the request to be made and the obligation to arise in accordance with its terms at any time up to the specified period after the time for the purchaser's observations on the vendor's answers to the purchaser's requisitions on title.

That period was one which gave a *real* opportunity to a purchaser to make the request in the light of all the relevant information to be provided to him pursuant to subsections (1) to (4).

Lee v Olancastle (unreported, Mr Justice Millett, ChD, July 8, 1987) was distinguishable. There was no suggestion there that the title of the defendant had been or was deemed to have been accepted by the plaintiff. Accordingly, the *question whether section 110(5)* precluded a stipulation which required the request to be made before the acceptance of title did not arise.

Nevertheless, the "outstanding obligations" of a vendor for the purpose of condition 22 did not include an obligation to complete as provided for in section 110(5) when no request to that effect had been made by the purchaser.

Lord Justice Roch agreed and Lord Justice Staughton delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: G. H. Gelberg & Co, Islington; Slaters, Finchley.

THE TIMES

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هكذا من الاعلام

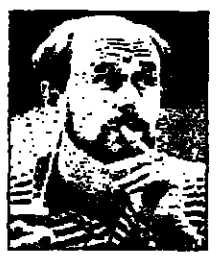
■ **THEATRE 1**

The faces change in *Art*, but the surprise West End hit of the year is as gripping as ever

■ **THEATRE 2**

Brian Friel's latest play, *Give Me Your Answer, Do!*, is unveiled in Dublin, but proves to be not quite vintage

THE TIMES
ARTS



■ **MUSIC**

Roger Norrington brings his wit and verve to the LPO's Haydn festival, but the crowd stays away

■ **TOMORROW**

Caryl Churchill's comic hit *Cloud Nine* is revived at the Old Vic: read Benedict Nightingale's review

THEATRE: A subtle *Art* continues to impress; but Brian Friel's latest stylish offering loses something in production

Friends in the frame

Art
Wyndham's

It began as a play and is becoming a phenomenon. Who would have thought that as wise a comedy as Yasmina Reza's *Art* would pack out Wyndham's for five months and, after a major change of cast, not just be booking until next October but boasting a box-office advance of £250,000? The current wisdom is that, unless a piece has big stars, soaring helicopters or tunes by Lord Lloyd-Webber, it can enjoy only a modest success in the West End. It has taken the French-Iranian Reza to disprove this.

Recasting has taken some of the decisiveness out of Matthew Warchus's production, but it has added subtlety. Anton Lesser is less wintry than Tom Courtenay as Serge, the dermatologist who spends 200,000 francs on a painting that consists of a white rectangle with half-visible white streaks. David Haig is less hearty than Albert Finney as Marc, the aeronautical engineer who cannot hide his belief that his oldest chum has been diddled by the chic opportunists of the art market. The differences between the two are less inordinate, so it is more credible that they have been and still believe themselves close friends.

But the big change comes in Yvan, who regards both as his best friends and is regarded by both as wet. For a time, I thought Mark Williams a slightly disappointing substitute for Ken Stott, who brought astonishing bravura to what is already one of the modern theatre's great set pieces, a long paean of self-pity in which Yvan evokes the emotional chaos of his impending marriage. But his slower, goofier approach pays off. At the end one realises, as one did not with Stott, that this woebegone pig-in-the-middle has been badly damaged by the fallout from a quarrel that, in its cool, Parisian way, has threatened to go nuclear.

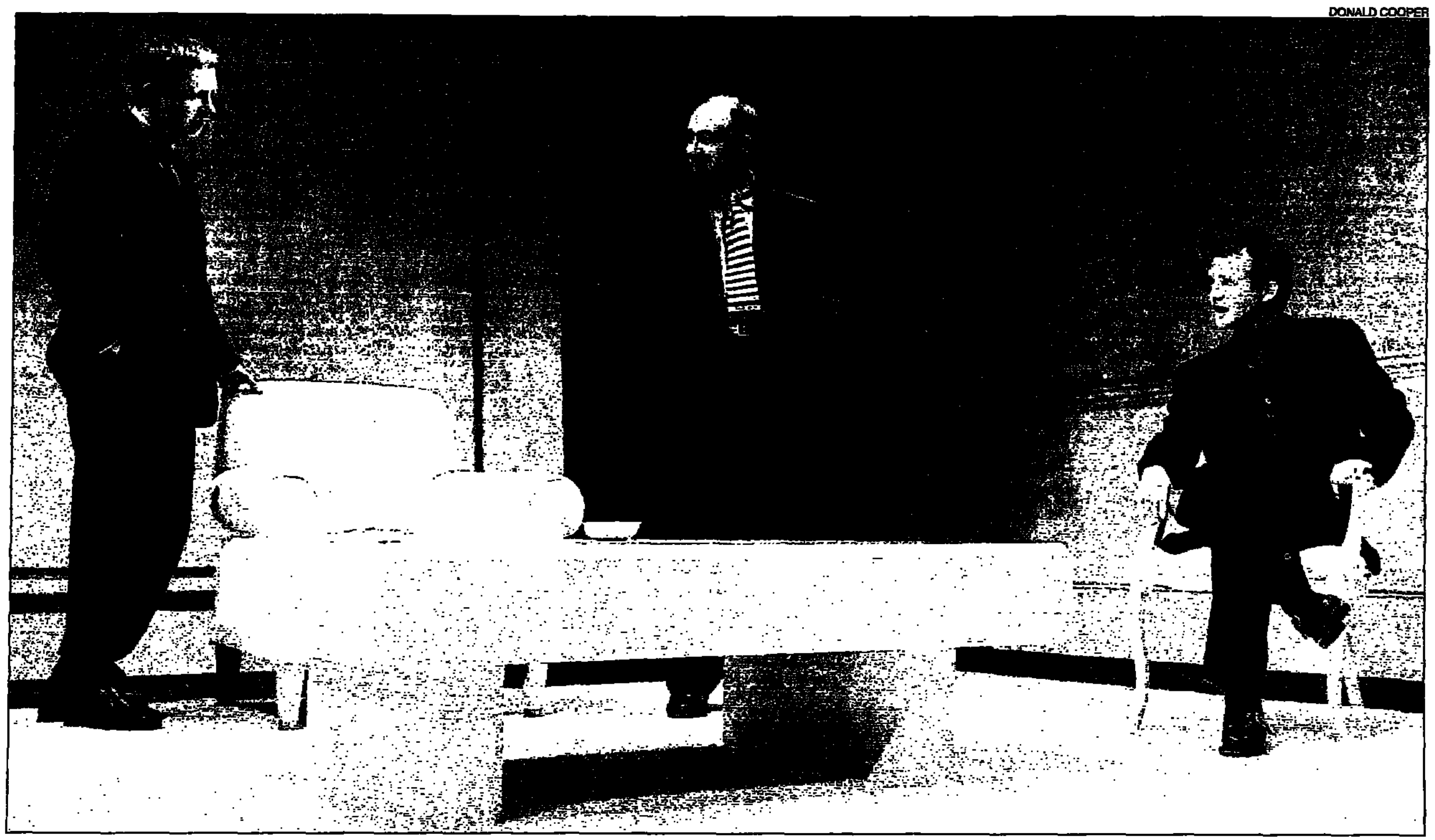
Indeed, his performance made it clear why Reza mumbled something mildly graceless about "thinking I had written a tragedy" when she received a best comedy award last year. At the time I thought she had failed to see that the English see good comedy as a more serious, textured business than they do on the Paris boulevards. But, hilarious though it often is, there is more insecurity, fear, unfulfilled need and unresolved pain in the play than I had realised.

That is the answer to the few critics who originally thought *Art* bland. It always was easier to refute those who found it philistine, especially when the view was expressed as inanely as it was by *The Guardian*'s Richard Gott. Writing from the moral high ground he has long inhabited, he declared that not since "the palmy days of the Third Reich" had people had their prejudices so pandered to than by this "old-style fascist theatre". That wrongly assumed that Reza sides with reactionary Marc. It totally ignored a touching, healing ending. It also misidentified the play's subject.

That subject is not cultural fashion or the vagaries of the art trade but the nature and limitations of friendship. To what extent does caring for someone mean tolerating his taste, his opinions, his ego, his attempts to control you, his changing personality? To what degree must friendship involve evasion, compromise, humility, attempting to cover up emotional fissures when they show themselves? So deftly does Reza raise those and other issues that I am tempted to revise my view of her play. In October I called it a minor classic. Let's change that to classic comedy, period.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

DONALD COOPER



Mark Williams, David Haig and Anton Lesser as Yvan, Marc and Serge, supposed friends whose amity is unexpectedly tested by an abstract painting in Yasmina Reza's *Art*

A question of literary value

Give Me Your Answer, Do!
Abbey, Dublin

WHEN an aristocrat of literature has delivered his work, which opinions really matter? The ones given by the readers who don't want his novels any more; that of the agent who fired him; or that of a world indifferent to his plight — an inability to finish a five-year-old novel, and his poverty and isolation in a Co Donegal hideaway? Or will the judgment of his worth come from somewhere else?

Tom Connolly (Tom Hickey), the writer at the centre of Brian Friel's *Give Me Your Answer, Do!*, has his questions clear, but cannot decide where best to seek the answers. Ask Daisy, his wife, and you will get a sozzled rant about uncertainty. Ask Garrett, the popular novelist, and you will get the sly answers of a rival. Ask Bridget, the sedated daughter in the padded cell, and you'll get no answer at all.

On the sunny lawn at home, Daisy (Catherine Byrne) eases her way into the afternoon with a few gins, and slyly interrogates David Knight (Darragh Kelly), a scavenger of literary archives, snuffling his way through Tom's papers. Forty years of work stretch across the stage — works in which the public no longer has any interest.

As ever Friel's stylish patterning of his material is intense. Chekhov crops up early as the guests, Daisy's parents (Aideen O'Kelly and David Kelly), along with Garrett (Des McAleer) and his wife (Frances Tomelty), gather for one last hurrah of an ebbing Irish literary aristocracy. The crucial resonance is with Eliot's tempters in the Cathedral, as the good Knight offers Tom that which is not his to give: the benevolent view of posterity.

If the story seems a little specific, the production is a greater problem. With the very notable exceptions of O'Kelly and David Kelly, the cast were all acting dangerously below par. Byrne had difficulty with dialogue that required close timing. Tom Hickey's mannered performance, too, had grave problems.

Friel's decision to direct has a whiff of hubris about it. A number of verbal skirmishes needed to be far tighter, while visual aspects are undeveloped. Perhaps this is not a Friel to stand alongside *Faith Healer*, *Translations* or *Dancing at Lughnasa*, but without a more precise production it could also look pale next to *Molly Sweeney*.

LUKE CLANCY

On the road to a rage

RADIO

One of the strengths of radio is its ability to start a fight, although this need not involve actual fisticuffs. Few people in real life shout at television screens or rip up newspapers in disgust at the views being expressed, however often sitcoms depict them doing so. But it cannot be that all those I see talking animatedly in cars, alone, are using hands-free telephones. No, I think they are arguing with the radio.

For many years, Radio 3 was not the prime provider of material fit to make one burst a blood vessel. But of late the network has commissioned some excellent documentaries, a genre guaranteed to induce radio rage. Long may this continue.

Sounding the Century is Radio 3's huge project; running until the millennium, aimed at celebrating the present century on a decade-by-decade basis. The pick of the bunch this week was **The Sixties: Paperback Writers** (Monday), which attempted to assess the role of writing in that decade.

Andy Martin, the presenter, sensibly took the position that one did not influence a decade by writing a book during it. The principal 1960s influences came from the previous decade, including the early work of Jack Kerouac and, of course, J.D. Salinger's *The Catcher in the Rye*, the novel which first defined the word "teenager".

Saul Bellow and Camille Paglia were among the programme's interviewees. Much as Bellow is interesting (and rarely heard these days), it was Paglia who would have induced odd looks and defensive door-locking from fellow motorists as I listened to her in the car. She is one of those infuriating people who cannot define anything except in terms of its death.

According to Paglia, the 1960s brought the end of the novel as a significant instrument: "For me the last great moment in the novel was the moment of the Modernist novel — Joyce, Proust, Faulkner, Hemingway. After that I think the novel begins to die."

And why was that? "History became too vivid from the Kennedy assassination onwards — events in the real world overtook the novel." This is a classic child-of-the-1960s view: two World Wars could not kill off the novel but one presidential assassination could.

I shouted at the in-car entertainment module (as we children of the 1960s call it) and headed for the nearest bookshop.

PETER BARNARD

THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL OFFERS

THE TIMES
THE THEATRE CLUB

LONDON
Lyceum Theatre
To May 29

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Members wanting to make a night of it can take advantage of our special hotel offer as well. Stay overnight in a Radisson Edwardian Hotel from as little as £35 per person, including full English breakfast. Offer applies March 24 to April 6. Tel 0800 335588 to book for both offers

Piccadilly Theatre
March 23 (3pm)

● ONCE again, the celebrated farceur Ray Cooney is inviting Theatre Club members to sit in on his creative process. A rehearsed reading of what is sure to be his next hit, *Times Up*, will be held before an audience, followed by a general discussion, while Cooney makes notes to help him with his re-writes. Tickets are £5, including a glass of wine or a soft drink in the interval. Tel 0171-369 1734

The Young Vic
Mar 24-26

● TICKETS £4.50 (normally £6.50) for *Honestly*, a maniacal new work told in Hoipolloi Theatre's vivid and highly individual style of visual and physical comedy. Tel 0171-928 6363

The Cochrane
Mar 25-27, Apr 1-2

● TWO tickets for the price of one (normally £8.50) for Black Mime Theatre's *Mourning Song*, three stories told through physical theatre and live Gospel music. Tel 0171-242 7040

SHEFFIELD
Crucible Theatre
Mar 21-23, 25-29 (7.30pm)

● IAN MCSHANE stars in J.M. Barrie's classic comedy, *The Admirable Crichton*. Tickets £9.50 (normally £11 to £13.50). Tel 0114-276 9922

BOLTON
Octagon Theatre
Apr 4, 11

● TWO tickets for the price of one (normally £11.50 to £12.75) for Caryl Churchill's *Top Girls*. Tel 01204 520661

BASINGSTOKE
Haymarket Theatre
Apr 1-4

● ADRIAN HODGES, the writer of the television hit *Kavanagh QC*, has written a comedy. It's called *Life Goes On*, and members can save £5 on tickets (normally £10 to £13.50). Tel 01256 465566

SALISBURY
Playhouse
Mar 27-Apr 19

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Romantic treatment of a brute

OPERA

King and Marshal
Bloomsbury

University College Opera's latest exhumation fills yet another gap in our experience of nationalist operatic movements. *Drot og Marsk* (1878), described as a "song drama" by its composer, Peter Heise (1830-79), is the most significant Danish romantic opera, and proved well worth investigating.

The subject matter, based on fact, has a familiar ring. King Erik V was assassinated in 1286 by his Marshal, Stig Andersen, whose wife he had seduced. According to Heise's librettist, Christian Richardt, he was in the habit of seducing more or less everything that moved, including the local charcoal-burner's daughter, Aase. Add to this his boasting about his exploits as an arsonist, and you come to the opera's main drawback: the protagonist is such a frightful bounder that you can't wait for someone to stick a knife in him. The work is not rich in dramatic conflict.

Heise's musical language is a touch conservative for its day: Beethoven and Weber are obvious influences — the latter especially on the instrumentation — and the harmonies are cheerfully diatonic, taking little note of what Wagner had been up to in the meantime. There are good tunes, in particular for Aase, and one or two scenes that can't fail: the Marshal's public denunciation of the King in council, and the subsequent conspirators' chorus. A sense of short-windedness in Heise's easily conversational word-setting style — good ideas peter out before they need to — may be due to the cutting and rearrangement made by the conductor, David Hammond, who also supplied the English translation. It's a pleasing opera which one would be happy to catch on a weekend in Copenhagen, but not as trail-blazing as what was happening in Bohemia, Poland or Russia at that time.

Hammond conducted Monday's British premiere with proselytising zeal, and there was rude, undisciplined energy in Robert Chevara's production, with cast and chorus in bizarre pick-'n'-mix costumes.

The women get the best music and were the best singers: Helene Wold especially charming in Aase's song and Weberian prayer in the last act, and Louise Cannon steadily rising to the dramatic-soprano challenges of the Marshal's guilt-ridden wife. The lyric tenor Julian Jensen was mellifluous as the King's treacherous valet, but someone should whisper to Mark Evans (taking the role of the Marshal) that not every note in an opera needs to be sung double fortissimo. The King himself, baritone-turned-tenor James Hancock, sang with so erratic a sense of pitch as to have one guiltily longing for the denouement.

There are repeat performances tonight and tomorrow for rarity-hunters, but if you want an opera about a Scandinavian monarch being murdered by his girlfriend's husband, *Un ballo in maschera* is on the whole a safer bet.

RODNEY MILNES

Haydn restored

CONCERT

LPO/Norrington
Festival Hall

VERBAL and musical wit fenced together on Wednesday as Roger Norrington introduced and conducted two of Haydn's six Paris symphonies in a Haydn Festival which is seeking to return those works to the position they commanded in Paris in the mid-1780s: that of a programme's central attraction, not mere fillers.

It was all the more pity that the Festival Hall seemed scarcely more than half full. This was programming and performing perhaps better suited to the Queen Elizabeth Hall; but the London Philharmonic was the band, and this was its space. Norrington's relaxed and deft verbal sketches of what constitutes classical style, to say nothing of his five strategies for releasing the wit in Haydn, did draw the scattered audience in, and concentrated attention on many details in the evening's superbly focused playing.

For the Symphony No 82 *(The Bear)*, Norrington showed us Haydn as bumpkin, removed from the misty borderland of rustic Austro-Hungary to the sophistication of Paris, and teasing both himself and his audience in the process. Canny observed note lengths and accents made for a steady, sturdy *Vivace* opening movement, the first beat of its triple rhythm swingeing into every bar. The famous ursine finale was, by contrast, featly footed until the trumpets stepped up the already tightening harmonic tension, and a loud timpani roll gave its final triumphant growl.

Many a nudge and a wink accompanied the Symphony No 83 *(The Hen)* as it clucked and pecked its way forward after an opening of dark minor-key paragraphs and sudden, thudding silences. Norrington's long, continuous phrasing and steady pulse of repeated notes maintained extraordinary tension in the long but fleet Andante before a Menuet in which many a muddy double-bass boot was to be glimpsed under the twirling gowns of the upper strings.

Norrington's Haydn Festival is playing Haydn off not only against himself, but also against his great admirer, Benjamin Britten. Neil Jenkins replaced an indisposed John Mark Ainsley to sing the *Nocturne*, Britten's continuous, trance-like sequence of sleep and poetry. Jenkins is a fine interpreter of Britten, and he gave a lucid, fine-boned performance, missing only that elusive sensuality which lurks behind this strange midsummer night's dream. Norrington possibly miscalculated the balance here: the strings spun an over-fragile thread of allusion, though the seven orchestral soloists — bassoon, harp, horn, timpani, cor anglais, flute and clarinet — worked their own disturbing magic to constantly beguiling effect.

HILARY FINCH

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CHANGING TIMES

■ CHOICE 1

Ian Holm stars as King Lear in a new staging for the National Theatre

VENUE: From tonight at the Cottesloe

■ CHOICE 2

Gemma Jones is the formidable heroine of *Mrs Klein*

VENUE: From tonight at the Palace, Watford

THE TIMES ARTS POP

■ POP 1

McReady to go: Nashville has a new star, in the shape of a former waitress from Florida

■ POP 2

Jazz trumpeter Wynton Marsalis brings *Blood On The Fields*, the best work of his career, to London

WEEKEND CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Maxey

LONDON

LA BAYADÈRE: Returns only for Natalia Makarova's re-creation for the Royal Ballet of one of the great Russian ballet classics choreographed by Petipa.
Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, WC2 (0171-304 4000). Opens tomorrow, 7.30pm. Then on March 25, 26, 27, 31, April 1, 3, 4 and 10. Ⓢ

CELLO AND PIANO: Ralph Kirshbaum and Roger Vignoles offer a programme of sonatas by Beethoven, Shostakovich and Hindemith.
Blackheath Concert Halls, 23 Lee Road, SE3 (0181-463 0100). Sunday, 11.30am.

CLOUD NINE: Tom Cairns directs Caryl Churchill's first (1979) smash hit: sexual politics and colonialism, set in the Victorian era and after. In repertoire.
Old Vic, Waterloo Road, SE1 (0171-928 7616). Opens tonight, 7.30pm. Ⓢ

KING LEAR: Ian Holm in the title role, heading a splendid cast (Timothy West as Gloucester, Michael Bryant as the Fool) in Richard Eyre's production.
National (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Previews begin tonight, 7pm. Opens March 27, 7pm. Then in rep.

SCHUMANN WEEKEND: John Eliot Gardiner conducts the Orchestre Revolutionnaire et Romantique in three concerts (tonight, Saturday and Sunday at 7.30pm) exploring the composer's symphonies and large-scale choral works, including his "orchestrated lieder-cycle", *Das Paradies und die Peri*. The weekend includes a workshop tomorrow (4.45-6pm) and a chamber concert on Sunday (4pm)
Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Today-Sunday. Ⓢ

ELSEWHERE

EDINBURGH: The annual **Edinburgh Folk Festival** begins today with a concert by the Dordan and Savourna Stevenson Trio, with Mary Bergin on whistle, in the Queen's Hall (7.30pm). The ten-day festival includes a musical showcase by Culburnie Records and performances by Arcady, the Robert Fish Band and June Tabor. Venues include the Teviot Hall and Traverse Theatre.
Festival box office (0131-668 2019). Until March 30.

LIVERPOOL: An exhibition of more than 68 oil paintings and 15 drawings and watercolours by **Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema**, whose sunlit visions of ancient Rome, Pompeii and Greece made him one of Victorian England's most popular painters.
Walker Art Gallery, William Brown Street (0151-478 4199). Opens today. Mon-Sat 1-am-5pm; Sun, noon-5pm. Until June 8.

WATFORD: Gemma Jones plays Melanie Klein, the formidable heroine of **Mrs Klein**, Nicholas Wright's exciting and witty portrait of the famous analyst in a moment of crisis. Directed by Irina Brook, daughter of Peter.
Palace, Clarendon Road (01923 225671). Previews begin tonight, 8pm. Opens March 25, 7.45pm. Then Mon-Thurs, 7.45pm, Fri and Sat, 8pm; mats Wed (April 2), 2.30pm, and Sat (March 29, April 12), 3pm. Until April 12.

LONDON GALLERIES

Barbican: Lucie Rie and Hans Coper: Potters in Parallel (0171-638 4141) . . . **British Museum**: Ancient Faces: Mummy Portraits from Roman Egypt (0171-636 1555) . . . **Catto**: Lélia Pissarro (0171-435 6660) . . . **European Academy/Accademia Italiana**: José Maia (0171-235 0303) . . . **Leighton House**: Vibrant Explorations: Modern and Contemporary Syrian Art (0171-602 3316) . . . **Llewellyn Alexander**: Jeremy Barlow (0171-620 1322) . . . **National**: Young Gainsborough (0171-747 2885) . . . **Saatchi**: Fiona Rae; Gary Hume (0171-624 8299) . . . **Tate**: Lovis Corinth (0171-887 8000) . . . **Whitechapel**: Antechamber (0171-522 7888)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ **House full, returns only**
◪ **Some seats available**
□ **Seats at all prices**

□ **BADFINGER**: *After the success of last year's "Four Corners" season, this year's programme allows a fortnight's run for each of three plays. Kicking off is* Wales's Thin Language Theatre Co with Simon Harris's surreal nightmare set in a junk shop, directed by Michael Sheen.
Donmar Warehouse, *Earlham Street*, WC2 (0171-369 1732) *Mon-Sat*, 8pm; mat Sat, 4pm. Until March 22

□ **BIRDY**: *Northern Exposure* actor Rob Morrow joins Kevin Knight's cast in Naomi Wallace's fascinating version of *the William Wharton novel*: a psychologically damaged GI (Matthew Wait) believes he is a bird. Or does he?
Comedy, Panton Street, SW1 (0171-369 1731). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 5pm

□ **THE COMIC MYSTERIES**: John Retallack's celebrated production of Dario Fo's *Mistero Buffo*: New Testament tales delivered in *commedia dell'arte* style.
Greenwich, Crooms Hill, SE10 (0181-858 7755). Previews begin tonight, 7.45pm. *Opens March 25, 7pm.*

◪ **THE GENERAL FROM AMERICA**: James Laurenson and Corin Redgrave play Arnold and Washington, heading a fine cast in Richard Nelson's play concerned with treachery but only *faintly suggesting motives.*
Pit, Barbican Centre, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Tonight and tomorrow, 7.15pm; mat Sat, 2pm. In rep.

□ **THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING OSCAR**: The first revival of Michael macLiammoir's dramatic biography since the man's death in 1975. Performed now by Simon Callow, directed by Patrick Garland.
Savoy, Strand, WC2 (0171-836 8888). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm

■ **IVANOV**: Ralph Fiennes heads a splendid cast that includes Harriet Walter and Oliver Ford Davies, in Jonathan Kent's excellent production of Chekhov's first produced play
Almeida, Almeida Street, N1 (0171-359 4404). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Sat, 3pm.

■ **LIVE & KIDDING**: Maureen Lipman presents herself for a five-week season of musicology, humourology and many another ology
Duchess, Catherine Street, WC2 (0171-494 5075). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Sat, 3pm. Until April 5.

◪ **POPCORN**: Ben Elton's blistering comedy about movie violence. A Tarantinoesque director gets his comeuppance when a couple of serial killers (great playing by Patrick O'Kane and Dena Davis) blame him for their misdeeds. Laurence Boswell directs.
Apollo, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5070). Now previewing, 8pm. Opens April 10, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed, 3pm, and Sat, 4pm.

□ **ROMANCE, ROMANCE**: Musical double-bill by Barry Harman and Keith Hermann, *derived from a Schnitzler hit of love in old Vienna* coupled with a modern version set on Long Island. Directed by Steven Dexter
Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Thurs and Sat, 3pm

◪ **WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF?**: Diana Rigg and David Suchet in Howard Davies's powerful Almeida production of Albee's searing play.
Aldwych, Aldwych, WC2 (0171-416 6003). Mon-Sat, 7.15pm; mat Sat, 2.15pm. *Until March 22.*

LONG RUNNERS

□ **Blood Brothers**: Phoenix (0171-369 1733) . . . □ **Buddy**: Strand (0171-930 8800) . . . ◪ **An Inspector Calls**: Garrick (0171-494 5085) . . . ◪ **Jesus Christ Superstar**: Lyceum (0171-656 1807) . . . ◪ **Jolson**: Victoria Palace (0171-834 1317) . . . □ **Martin Guerre**: Prince Edward (0171-447 5400) . . . ■ **Les Misérables**: Palace (0171-434 0909) . . . ◪ **Miss Saigon**: Drury Lane (0171-494 5400) . . . ■ **The Phantom of the Opera**: Her Majesty's (0171-494 5400) . . . ◪ **Starlight Express**: Apollo Victoria (0171-416 6054)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre.

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

SPACE JAM (U): Sports star Michael Jordan collides with characters from Looney Tunes cartoons. A juvenile mess; director, Joe Pytka.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **Odeons: Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Virgin Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

STAR WARS (U): The movie milestone returns, with four extra minutes. With Mark Hamill, Harrison Ford, Alec Guinness, director, George Lucas.
ABCs: Baker Street (0171-935 9772) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Odeons: Leicester Square** (0181-315 4215) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121)

TROJAN EDDIE (15): Urban scamp Stephen Rea struggles to be his own man. Droll drama, with Richard Harris. Director, Gillies MacKinnon.
Metro (0171-437 0757) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121)

CURRENT

◆ **BOUND** (18): Thriller about two sultry lesbians and a pile of Mob money, with Jennifer Tilly and Gina Gershon. Directed by the Wachowski brothers.
ABC Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Mezzanine** (0181-315 4215) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Virgin Haymarket** (0171-839 1527)

◆ **THE CRUCIBLE** (12): Weighty version of Arthur Miller's play about 17th-century witchcraft, with Winona Ryder, Daniel Day-Lewis and Paul Scofield
Odeons: Kensington (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Virgin Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Watermans** (0181-568 1176)

◆ **THE ENGLISH PATIENT** (15): Map-making Ralph Fiennes smoulders with passion for Kristin Scott Thomas.
Barbican Ⓢ (0171-638 8891) **Chelsea** (0171-351 3742) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Curzon West End** (0171-369 1722) **Gate** (0171-727 4043) **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Phoenix** (0181-883 2233) **Plaza** (0990-888 990) **Renoir** (0171-837 8402) **Richmond** (0181-332 0030) **Rio** (0171-254 6677) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen on Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **Screen on the Green** (0171-226 3520) **UCI Whiteleys** (0990-888 990) **Virgin Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Warner West End** (0171-437 4343)

◆ **FIERCE CREATURES** (PG): Broad comedy in an English zoo, from John Cleese and *A Fish Called Wanda* team. With Kevin Kline, Jamie Lee Curtis. Director, Robert Young.
Empire (0990-888 990) **Virgin Trocadero** Ⓢ (0171-434 0031)

◆ **JERRY MAGUIRE** (15): A sports PR agent gets a conscience. Enjoyable, if overlong comedy, with Oscar-nominated Tom Cruise
Barbican Ⓢ (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Empire** (0990 888990) **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0990 888990) **Virgins: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** Ⓢ (0171-434 0031)

MOTHER NIGHT (15): American writer in Nazi Germany gets into trouble. Absorbing adaptation of Kurt Vonnegut's novel, with Nick Nolte. Director, Keith Gordon.
Curzon Phoenix (0171-369 1721)

◆ **THE PORTRAIT OF A LADY** (12): Jane Campion's icily elegant adaptation of Henry James, with Nicole Kidman as the independent American sucked into a marriage in Europe. **Lumiere** (0171-836 0691) **Virgins: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1523)

◆ **SHINE** (12): Child prodigy pianist crumples under the strain. Uplifting, often funny treatment of a true story from Australian director Scott Hicks.
Odeons: Kensington (0181-315 4214) **Mezzanine** Ⓢ (0181-315 4215) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Plaza** Ⓢ (0990 888990) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

Stand by your plan

Howdy, miss. Lost your big hair and stetson?

Alan Jackson meets a cowgirl with attitude

None of the businessmen taking mobile phone calls in the West End hotel bar can know yet who Mindy McReady is, but she turns heads all the same. Although dressed down, she still conveys the impression that she might be famous.

In fact she is one of American country music's most acclaimed new stars. Last year's debut album *10,000 Angels* has now sold more than a million copies, climbing high in the US pop charts in the process. And thanks to the cheerfully post-feminist thrust of *Guys Do It All The Time*, its most talked-about track, she has helped to underline a new trend in a previously male-dominated genre.

At 21, the photogenic and charming McReady is by no means Nashville's youngest emergent star: 14-year-old LeAnn Rimes became the first country singer to win the Best New Artist award at last month's Grammies. But it is noteworthy that Rimes's and McReady's propulsion to stardom (and that of fellow newcomer Deana Carter, whose debut LP *Did I Shave My Legs For This?* is a huge success) has occurred just as interest is waning in the previously unstoppable "hat acts" — stetson-sporting males such as Garth Brooks, Clint Black and George Strait.

Singing cowboys still represent big business in the C&W heartlands, but it was the surge of interest shown in them by urban consumers who influence the pop charts which made them across-the-board stars in the early 1990s. Now the interest would seem to have waned. "That's not surprising when there are so many alike," says McReady. "Nashville is seriously into cloning — an artist is successful on one label and immediately every other company rushes to sign a carbon copy. The public wants inspiration, and how can you be inspired by some guy when you know there'll be another ten just like him along in a minute?"

Meanwhile, her hit single has great appeal for that potentially wide audience (60 per cent of American C&W buyers are young women) looking for a stylish alternative to rhinestones, big hair and pointy-toed boots. Its video shows McReady bleary-eyed after a night out with the girls, confronting her boyfriend's double standards by telling him, "Get over it honey / Life's a two-way street / Or you won't be a man of mine . . ." This lyric is greeted with whoops of glee from women concertgoers every time she performs it live: hardly groundbreaking polemic, but it does signal progress within a peer group famous for standing by its man.

"Traditionally, the image of ourselves we have portrayed through music has been so submissive," says McReady. "I don't advocate male-hating but I do demand to be treated equally, and I think most females feel that way. *Guys Do It All The Time* reminds me of the time I let myself be trapped in an abusive relationship. I let someone knock me around, all the while dreaming of being the type of woman portrayed in the song. Finally I found the courage to be her, and I hope that its popularity means that others will feel empowered to be her too."

Where do country performers acquire this talent for *Oprah*-style self-revelation? Certainly not at the media training classes which, McReady assures me, are now a part of every Nashville hopeful's grooming programme. "It's a one-to-one thing with a tutor and most labels put their new artists through it," she says. "But I hated it. And failed it. They want you to be so careful, so manufactured, ultimately so bland. What about putting across a little personality?"

So the former waitress from Fort Myers, Florida, takes it on the chin when the American tabloids ask how she felt at the age of 11 when her parents divorced. Or why her two younger brothers now live with her in Nashville, not with their mother. Or why she is paying to put them through college.

"No, I don't feel it's turning my life into soap opera," she says. "If you're lucky enough to have a gift that brings you fame and the love of the public, it's your duty to be forthright and honest in all that you say."

McReady says she feels sorry for Rimes, who has two albums in the US Top Ten at a time when her peers are midway through high school: "She has a God-given talent but she's missing out on her childhood. For different reasons, so did I — I had the weight of the world on my shoulders at 14, worrying about my brothers and my Mom and running the house when all I wanted to do was twirl my cheerleader's baton or sit in my bedroom experimenting with make-up. LeAnn probably wants to do the same, but she has to worry about flights and itineraries and accounting. I feel bad that anyone so young should be exposed to so much stress, whatever the rewards."

● *The album* 10,000 Angels *is released by BNA Records*

No rhinestones for Mindy McReady, new face of country and western

Boldest swinger in town

JAZZ

Wynton Marsalis
Barbican

WELL OVER three hours later, we drifted out into the streets, exhausted but exhilarated, too. Unwieldy in parts, Wynton Marsalis's *Blood On The Fields* nevertheless remains the most accomplished work of the trumpeter's career so far and one of the handful of truly significant musical premieres London is likely to witness this year.

Marsalis has tried his hand at extended composition before — most notably with *In This House, On This Morning*, the long-winded religious suite heard at the Proms a few years ago. *Blood On The Fields*, an oratorio inspired by American slavery, might easily have fallen into the same trap of mistaking grandiloquence for genuine emotion.

Here, though, Marsalis *marshalls his materials* with originality, grace and unexpected humour. In his spare drama of two transplanted Africans, Leona and Jesse *(sung by Cassandra Wilson* and Miles Griffiths) bonded by slavery and love, his libretto sketches a contemporary passion play driven by swing rhythms and austere New Orleans polyphony.

The subject matter normally allows endless opportunities for moralising — temptations *that Marsalis bravely resists.* Instead he spurns crude race politics and invokes the transcendent, if soiled, principles of American democracy.

For years now, Marsalis has been touted as the next trumpet king, an accolade disputed by the enemies he has made through his proselytising on behalf of the traditionalist canon. What this evening demonstrated, as he stamped and clamped the beat, focusing on conducting rather than playing, is that he is making his greatest contribution as a writer and *arranger.*

Compared with Duke Ellington, he is not an instinctive melodist. But his sense of *structure,* intense rhythmic drive and juggling of time signatures are ample compensations, drawing superlative performances from his Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra.

Tightly disciplined ensemble playing, rather than soloing, provided the focal point of most of the dance-like movements: Cassandra Wilson has never sounded better, while Jon Hendricks was in buoyant form in his dual roles as a slave buyer and as Juba, dispenser of folk wisdom.

Marsalis's text does not always avoid bathos, and *some of the dramatic clarity is* sacrificed in a meandering finale. A good 45 minutes could have been cut from the work as a whole. But it is a measure of the piece's stature that it still sweeps us along in the torrent of history.

CLIVE DAVIS

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MARCH 21 19

■ POP 2

azz trumpeter
Wynton Marsalis
brings *Blood On
The Fields*, the
best work of his
career, to London

■ POP 3

California's Cake offer an appealing mix of the odd and the diverse on their latest album, *Fashion Nugget* . . .

■ POP 4

. . . but Lisa Stansfield, for all her seductive charm, merely treads water on her new album

THE TIMES ARTS POP

■ POP 5

They sound as if they come from somewhere hot, but Santa Cruz are actually the hottest thing in Bristol

■ POP 6

Hey, hey, we're the wrinklies: the reconstituted Monkees offer a dispiriting night at Wembley Arena

The new buzz on the street is ... Cake

POP ALBUMS: **David Sinclair** unearths another American band in the Beck, Eels, kind of quirky and rather fab mould

CAKE
Fashion Nugget
(Capricorn/Mercury 532 867 £11.99)

HOT *on the heels of* Beck and the Eels, Cake is *the latest act to offer a* welcome alternative to "alternative" American rock. Rejecting the stifling conformity that has beset *that misnamed* genre *since* grunge fizzled out, the five-piece *group* from Sacramento have adopted a more open-ended and offbeat approach and been rewarded by seeing their second album, *Fashion Nugget*, continuing to *hover just* outside the American Top 50, six months after its release in that country.

Now *it is* our turn to savour the various ingredients *which make* Cake's musical recipe so appealingly different. While incorporating fashionable elements of hip hop and rap, à la the Red Hot Chili Peppers, *they nevertheless apply a* quaintly old-fashioned approach to their songwriting.

But their unique touch of genius is in integrating the sound of *mariachi trumpeter Vince DiFiore*. His flourishes lend a delightfully unexpected touch to numbers including the superb hit single, *The Distance*, and *Frank Sinatra*, where it sounds for a moment as if Herb Alpert *has wandered into* an Elvis Costello session.

Their choice of cover versions is similarly unpredictable: a forthright reappraisal of the old Gloria *Gaynor anthem*, *I Will Survive* and Willie Nelson's gently ironic *Sad Songs and Waltzes*. Meanwhile, an alert if somewhat warped sense of humour is threaded through the lyrics of their own numbers, ranging *from the country-flavoured She'll Come Back to Me* to the stream-of-consciousness funk of *Race Car Ya-Yas*.

Odd and diverse in both its influences and reach, *Fashion Nugget* is the kind of album you could ponder to the point of meaninglessness. Better simply to enjoy its cranky yet utterly modern charm for all it is worth.

Compact discs reviewed in *The Times* can be ordered from the Times Music Shop *on 0345-023 498*

LISA STANSFIELD
Lisa Stansfield
(Arista/BMG 74321458512 £14.49)

STUNG, no doubt, by the comparatively poor sales of her lacklustre *1993 album*, *So Natural*, and mindful of the subsequent rise of Brit-soul stars such as Gabrielle and Dina Carroll, Lisa Stansfield has taken great pains to ensure that *her fourth* album is up to scratch.

Her long-time *partner* Ian Devaney this time shares the production credits with Peter Mokran, whose previous experi*ence with R Kelly, Michael Jack*son, Toni Braxton and others ensures that the album is graced with an authentic-sounding American *R&B* gloss. A selection of *tightly scripted love/relationship* songs, including a cover of Barry White's *Never Never Gonna Give You Up* and an ultra-commercial Diane Warren song, *I Cried My Last Tear Last Night*, is carefully tailored to Stansfield's sultry vocals. And there is the lucky, last-minute bonus of *People Hold On (Bootleg Mix)*, a hit out of the blue *for her at the start of the year*. It is a seductive package that can hardly fail, but which offers nothing to broaden her range or to challenge the most obvious of expectations.

BEE GEES
Still Waters
(Polydor 537 302 £13.99)

THE magic of the Brit Awards was confirmed when the nation awoke *last week to find two Bee Gees* albums in the Top 10. *Still Waters*, which joins a greatest hits collection in the chart, is the latest offering from the Gibb brothers who, having been laughably un*fashionable even at the height of* their fame, are now impervious to the shifting sands of popular taste.

Still singing of fevered emotions and tortured imaginings in falsetto *tones that* range from a *quivering* bedside whisper to a noise resembling the alarmed bleating of sheep, they stamp their unmistakable mark on numbers ranging from the slick *I Surrender* to the saccharine *I Will*. The new medallion man lyrics are excruciating — "I'm in love with the child inside," they sing in *Obsessions* — but otherwise it is an album written and performed *to the usual exact*ing, if hardly exciting, standards.

Cake — (from left) John McCrea, Todd Roper, Greg Brown, Vince DiFiore, Victor Damiani — the latest and very welcome alternative to "alternative" American rock

CHUCK PROPHET
Homemade Blood
(Cooking Vinyl COOK 114 £14.99)

WHILE new acts, such as Wilco, are rightly acclaimed as saviours of American *roots music, it seems* that Chuck Prophet, a no less talented performer with similarly traditional instincts, remains forever burdened with the curse of bad timing.

Homemade Blood is the fourth album of a solo career that has *proceeded in fits and starts since* before the dissolution of Prophet's former band, Green On Red, in 1991. A collection of lovingly crafted, rough-edged songs, *steeped in an earthy cocktail of* country, blues and Rolling Stones-ish rock'n'roll influences, it is a brilliant record of its kind that deserves far wider attention than *its limited marketing budget and unfortunate title will enable it to* receive.

*Great tunes, such as the Dylan*esque title track, rub shoulders with soulful lyrics and adventurous but never overheated guitar solos, as on the scruffy *Ooh Wee*, which *canters to a mighty finale with the* help of a striding riff borrowed from Jimi Hendrix's *Hey Joe*.

An album surrounded by no great expectations or hype, *Homemade Blood* is primed *instead by pure spirit and plenty of old-*fashioned heart.

TOP TEN ALBUMS

1	(2)	**Spice**	Spice Girls (Virgin)
2	(5)	**Still Waters**	*Bee Gees (Polydor)*
3	(1)	**Pop**	U2 (Island)
4	(26)	**Nine Lives**	Aerosmith (Columbia)
5	(3)	**Everything Must Go**	Manic Street Preachers (Epic)
6	(4)	**Ocean Drive**	Lighthouse Family (Wild Card)
7	(11)	**Tragic Kingdom**	No Doubt (Interscope)
8	(7)	**Very Best of**	Bee Gees (Polydor)
9	(6)	***B-Sides, Seasides & Freerides***	Ocean Colour Scene (MCA)
10	(12)	**K**	Kula Shaker (Columbia)

Copyright CIN

● *Figure in brackets denotes last week's position*

Look what Santa's got you for Easter

If you're from Bristol, and your songs are influenced by ghosts, then why not call yourselves Santa Cruz?

You imagine it would be desolate, this place where Santa Cruz *learnt to shiver*, coil and break. On hearing them for the first time, and knowing nothing about them, you figure they live in a shack in Spit Junction, *Australia*, playing plangent songs to uncomprehending locals in shabby bars. Or maybe they're from the wide, broiling Californian deserts, *four friends* huddled around a radio, picking up John Peel on a long-wave radio, and drinking in crackly, static-ridden harmonies like water.

But then, this rending emptiness could equally be down to living on the edge of a broken city, taking bus rides that take you past burnt-out shops and crumbling churches, neglected neighbourhoods and wasteland parks. The *scary parts of Boston: the high-rise parts* of the West Coast where the Byrds' vocals still echo . . .

But no. All wrong. *They're* a skateboard *shop assistant*, a *typesetter*, a mental-health worker and a bank clerk from Bristol. They believe in being polite and being wasted, being deep and being pop; and they're rigorously self-educated in Being Hot But Playing It Cool.

Santa Cruz were *five years* in the *planning*; they knew the label and producer they wanted before they wrote a note, and their record collection is the sum *total of* 20th-century *pop genius* — John *Lee Hooker*, My Bloody Valentine, Nick Drake, Sun Records' roster, the Beach Boys.

And, on top of all *this*, their debut *single* is the *most self-assured* declaration of *intent* since the week the Stone Roses a) did something, and b) it was good. *Thirty Degrees Below* is the sound of someone holding on to their sanity by a thread, all breaking harmonies, stick-the-kitchen-sink-in chord changes and a desper*ate sense of claustrophobia*.

"Well, the place in which we write and rehearse is rather isolated," Michele Schillace, the drummer, explains. "Scott Haigh-Jerrold, the lead singer's, mum owns a pub on Spike Island: it's a *patch of flat mud and grass in the* middle of the Severn Estuary. Spike Island is the last place in Britain to carry out public executions — the *executioner used to live in the* basement of the pub. And there's a very odd vibe there. Sometimes, when it's still and quiet, *you can hear someone* moving around."

"Yeah, the last time I stayed there," Peter Sullivan, the guitarist, says. "I was in bed *and I could* feel these claw-like hands moving all over my legs. I wasn't really scared, though. Whoever's there isn't evil, just *a bit lost*."

Loss seems to be a big thread *running* through their album, to be called *Way Out*, due for release later in the year but already shaping up to be one of those *played*-to-death *summer* albums. These *uneasy* melodies sweetly straddle the blaze of summer sun and the damp *musk of evening. Each grasp* at joy leaves Santa Cruz's hands bloodied and torn but, equally, every painful thought has the memory of happier times. *Forever* sounds like the Go-Betweens locked in a cage, being told of all the horror in the world by Tricky, whereas *Rocket Man* is an almost hippy ode to the joy of walking barefoot in summer, undercut by a guitar-line that squeals like *one of John Squire's before* dipping into doubt

It's a mesmerising balancing act, redolent of Crowded House's greatest moments and facilitated by the *razor*-sharp ache of Haigh-Jerrold's voice. The fact that he could be good-looking for *England won't harm them a* bit either.

So how does a band this disparate and desperate get together? Did they all hook *up at Melancholists Anonymous?* Maybe messages in bottles that washed up at the feet of the right people? Or *possibly a series of chance* meetings in a local churchyard?

"No," Geoff Gorton (bass) says. "We were in a dodgy *indie club* in Bristol and I saw this lovely girl with glossy hair sitting on a barstool. As I was very *drunk*, I went over *to intro*duce myself, and was rather shocked to find the glossy hair was attached to a fella, Scott. *I was so surprised I* asked *him to join the band*. It was happy coincidence."

Or rather, a happy-yet-knowing-that-all-happiness-is-transient-and-an-illusion coincidence.

● Thirty Degrees Below *is released by MCA Records on Monday*

CAITLIN MORAN

CONCERTS: Band that never really was makes a comeback that isn't; change of formula is a hit

Last train to nowhere

The Monkees
Wembley Arena

IN A decade which has witnessed such unlikely reunions as those of the Velvet Underground *and* the Sex Pistols, you can hardly blame the Monkees for getting back together again. Unlike those other acts, the Monkees have *no artistic credibility or his*torical reputation to "betray". They were a made-up group in the first place, a pure, Saturday tea-time *entertainment phenomenon* with a cultural significance roughly on a par with that of Sooty and Sweep.

But that hardly *excuses* the many moments of toe-curling *embarrassment and intermit*tent stretches of boredom that were generated by much of this show. It started with a *neat "magical" flourish as the four men appeared, seemingly* out of thin air, in a shower of sparks. Dressed in blue crushed velvet suits, Davy *Jones, 51, Michael Nesmith*, 54, Micky Dolenz, 52 and Peter Tork, 53, picked up their instruments and launched *into Last Train to Clarksville*. It sounded surprisingly good, and for the first half of the show they played and sang entirely unaided, pointedly dispelling *one of the most* tenacious myths, that they never really mastered their instruments.

The inane vaudevillian antics of *Alternative Title* raised a smile here and there, and a huge cheer went up when they played *I'm A Believer* which, *along with Daydream Believer*, was clearly the song most people had come to hear. But the set included too many unfamiliar numbers, both old *and new*.

Things started to go seriously awry when the session musicans were *smuggled on and the individual members* started doing their party pieces. Nesmith provided an achingly dull reading of his only *solo hit*, *Rio*, *and* Tork weighed in with a pub-rock version of *Lucille*. Dolenz offered a numbingly dreadful rendition of the torch song *Since I Fell For You* before the diminutive Jones leapt in with a cabaret song-and-dance routine that made Ernie Wise *look like* Fred Astaire.

The *mood* of desperately forced frivolity escalated throughout the second half of the set, *which* was intercut with clips *from* the *new* Monkees TV series, and it became painfully apparent that gags and routines which *might be carefree, ephemeral fun in the hands of a fresh*-faced gang of youths quickly lapse into naff self-parody when the participants are clearly of an age to know better.

The perfunctory encores of *(I'm Not Your) Steppin' Stone* and *Pleasant Valley Sunday* partly redeemed the situation, but the real sadness *was that*, whatever the aesthetic considerations, the show as a whole had failed to entertain.

DAVID SINCLAIR

South rises again

Texas
Empire, W12

LAST autumn, anyone who predicted that Texas would have a chart-topping album *early in 1997 would have been* laughed at. The Glasgow rock outfit had been a hot ticket in 1989, but their return to commercial *favour* seemed only slightly *more* likely *than one* by their contemporaries Then Jerico or Living In A Box.

The speedy renewal of their *pop credentials has everything* to do with powerful music and little to do with the whims of fashion, even if lead singer Sharleen Spiteri is now all *over the style sheets*. Pop is the key word, too, as Texas have moved from their traditional American rock habitat to a *modern soul environment*. Such a ploy produced instant results when *Say What You Want* became their biggest ever single in January, teeing *up the* No 1 album *White on Blonde*.

The comeback hit, delivered towards the end of an efficient but rarely inspiring London show, had new and original *fans swaying and singing with* its clever and cheeky appropriation of a hook from Marvin Gaye's *Sexual Healing*. One of its partners on the new album, *Black Eyed Boy*, lacked some of the muscle of the recorded version, but was still a topically Tamla update of traditional soul stylings.

Spiteri was sure-voiced *throughout, but while the* group's on-stage policy of more songs and less frippery is admirable, it can make for a bread-and-butter viewing experience, the only real variation coming when she played an encore, solo at the organ, of Al Green's *Tired of Being Alone*.

Although their inspiration may have moved from the Lone Star State of their name to a *Detroit* address, they brought some of their old baggage, such as *Everyday Now* and *So-Called Friend*. Their first hit, *I Don't Want A Lover* was noticeably de-twanged, *Ally McEraline's guitar touches* taking it closer to funk territory.

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What if your son does not shine?

Hugh Thompson on boys who fail to achieve at independent schools

There is nothing more *exasperating* than the child with academic ability and promise who decides to settle for mediocre A levels rather than going *for the keys to the best* university places.

Although no one argues that every teenage girl takes to A levels like a duck to *water, boys* seem to fall behind in the A-level race. Even selective independent schools, with all the motivational support and push at their disposal, report that between 5 and 10 per cent of their sixth form could and should be doing better.

Several reasons are put forward: immaturity, which leads to lack of focus; school being seen as irrelevant; keeping *street* cred *by not* trying and therefore having an excuse for failing.

Some boys with *successful* parents can feel inferior if they struggle academically. And it has been suggested that the modular system of doing A levels takes some of the brighter boys' eyes off the ball *as they* go in for the final *months.* "It is important in these cases that the young man owns the decision to get back into his studies," says Hugh Carson, the head of Malvern College. "Career counselling is often the key. If they can start to focus on what they want to do and *what* qualifications *they* need, they can start seeing the point of working.

"There are, of course, those who develop too late to *settle down for their* A levels, and many of those go on to achieve amazing things. Bowing to the power of reward and punishment is *not the answer; there has to* be consent."

It may be that parents have an unrealistic view of their child's capabilities and their expectations are demotivating. Many young *people go on to university* only to drop out. Not all children are high-flyers and many who do badly at school have the practical *and creative qualities to do* well in the "real" world.

Many entrepreneurs are too self-opinionated and individualistic to finish or *benefit from school. Last* year in a letter to *The Times* the Headmaster of Ampleforth College, Leo Chamberlain, said: "An Abbot of Ampleforth was once asked what happened *in later life* to the denizens of the bottom *form.* He replied that they generally employed the scholars."

But what of the parents? Stephen Roberts, the Headmaster of Felsted, says: "I think there should be a good guy/bad guy division of roles. *Let the school do the* nagging and threatening: home must always be a place they can turn to and get support. At sixth-form *level, punishments such as* taking away sport and social facilities are more effective than giving book tokens and house points. We make them *realise that this is not* a holiday camp. Close attention and counselling usually works, *but there is* always a hard core who will never see the light. Most of the prob*lems are early on* in the course when they are least mature."

> Let the school *do the* nagging and threatening

Of course *different schools* have different selection criteria, traditions and ambitions and are therefore slightly different. Manchester Grammar School prides itself on its position in the premier division where As and Bs at A level are the norm. It is against this standard that underachievement is related. As elsewhere, about 10 per cent of the boys in the sixth form will have to be taken to one side.

Surmaster Neil Sheldon says: "Of the 20 or 30 out of a sixth form of 200 who we feel are in danger of underperforming, only two or three will seriously let themselves down in the end. They are usually disaffected with the school and therefore hard to reach. We target those we feel are slipping and at interview it is made very clear that they must continue to work hard and aim high.

"We appreciate that there are unprecedented distrac*tions — social lives, sport,* sex, part-time jobs — but we get the message across that, especially for the last six months, students must be *blinkered; they must concentrate totally on the exams."*

Labour's pledge is to give more power to the people

David Blunkett outlines his party's plans to shake up the Education Department

PARENTS

"We must also look at ways of extending consultation effectively to those who use our education services"

CONFERENCES

"I hope we can cut down on the plethora of professional conferences held each year"

TECHNOLOGY

"Technology can also ensure a two-way channel of communication with parents, pupils and students"

CREATING JOBS

"In employment, it will not be government which creates jobs, but government which backs those who can create them"

If we are to make a real difference in our education system, we must have a radical *shift in policy and in the way* that government operates. This means a shift in content and style so that we have an enabling approach which supports initiative from people *on the ground.*

We must look at how government departments operate, the services they provide and how they respond to the public. One of our first tasks if elected will be to transform the outlook, culture and ethos of government departments to ensure a clear focus on the real and immediate needs of the people they serve.

In the Department for Education and Employment, this will mean reviewing how effectively civil servants use their time and talents. This week we indicated that the depart*ment would have a minister* of Cabinet rank reporting to the Secretary of State to put in place our key employment programmes. This shows the important status which the *department will have in a Labour* government.

Staff at all levels must be clear about the policies they are being asked to implement — but they must *also be in a position to influence* decision-making. We know that many civil servants joined the service because of their commitment to public service, and those who should be in direct contact with the public — in schools, colleges, training centres, jobcentres, businesss and commerce — must be able to report frankly on what is working and what is not.

Labour is proposing to develop a Standards and Effectiveness Unit *and database within the department* to enable best practice from schools, Ofsted and LEAs to be spread quickly by using the Internet and other media. Those who gain insights from visiting schools or attending conferences will be able to make a direct input. Collecting and disseminating best practice will be central.

Technology can also ensure a two-way channel of communication with parents, pupils and students. The *possibilities are enormous.*

We will also draw in those from outside with the right skills and experience to help us to carry through our programme. Senior staff — as *politically neutral civil servants* — will be expected to speak at, and participate in, major conferences. They will be identifiable and identified with the work of the department.

Every civil servant should have the opportunity to contribute. Initiative should be acknowledged and rewarded, with civil servants encouraged to identify unnecessary bureaucracy. Anyone identifying savings by eliminating unnecessary tasks should be *helped to reallocate their time and* gain appropriate new skills. We must cut the avalanche of paper issued by the department and agencies every year. We want to reduce red tape for *those carrying out policy.*

The department should practise what it preaches. Investors in People should be the norm throughout, with training and updating of skills available in a sensible and planned way.

Communications from different *directorates and agencies must* be coordinated to avoid duplication and overload, and targeted to the appropriate audience. The 1995 efficiency scrutiny into the administrative bur*dens on schools was a good first step* in this direction. I am keen to investigate how we can make greater use of new technology in this area — not just to send material out to *schools, but to give them the opportunity to respond.*

I hope we can cut down on the plethora of professional conferences held each year. I would like to see fewer, more successful forums for discussion — constructive working *seminars rather than empty talking*-shops: the exchange of professional expertise and experience, rather than the same old speakers reciting to the same old audiences. I will also review *departmental procedures to cut down* on the number of meetings internally.

Consultation must be genuine. We must move beyond the farcical consultation exercises that *have been the* hallmark of this Government: support for the flagship measures on extending selection and the unplanned expansion of schools has *been around 3 per cent. Equally*, we must also look at ways of extending consultation effectively to those who use our education services as well as those who deliver them. The constant *change to the national curriculum* — at a cost to the taxpayer of £744 million — before Sir Ron Dearing sorted it out is a lesson to us all. The extension of the nursery voucher scheme without waiting to evaluate the pilots has been followed by genuine concern from the select committee and playgroups about reduced parental choice. This refusal to listen to the people on the ground runs the risk of leading to unworkable policies.

It is part of the arrogance of a Government which, after 18 years, still does not understand that it works on behalf of the public and not itself. This is why we need an "enabling government" — putting the machinery of government behind those people on the ground who are taking responsibility for their own lives and initiating their own effective solutions.

In employment, it will not be government which creates jobs, but government which backs those who can create them. This is why we support partnerships with private *enterprise, such as the Glasgow Wise* group's intermediate labour market approach to job creation and enterprise. The development of our personal job accounts — pilots offering *the long-term* unemployed *useful* work, education or support in starting a business — depends on breaking down barriers between government agencies and departments and directing resources to the needs of the individual.

Our proposals will demand a great deal of imagination from all those involved — and much change. The department has already been through enormous upheavals with the amalgamation of education and employment. It is our intention to continue the process of positive change — to enable civil servants to do their job better by being more directly connected with the world beyond Whitehall.

I am convinced that there will be a warm welcome from civil servants to a reappraisal of their role: facing outwards and relating directly to parents, students and teachers.

● *The author is Shadow Education and Employment Secretary.*

Stephen Gardiner on a pioneering school that encourages pupils to study architecture

Children build for the future

Pupils at Brandlehow School plan their new playground in a discussion session

At Brandlehow School in Putney, west London, an exciting educational *idea is being explored. Imagi*native proposals for the playground have been produced, mainly by seven and eight-year-olds under the supervi*sion of Sue Winn, the deputy* head, and with input from the architectural partnership, ArchEd.

It was a simple and very *good idea, practical as well as* functional. As Sarah Grove, the head teacher, and Ms Winn saw it, here was a playground that was a mere *leftover tarmacadam space,* an adjunct to the building that partially surrounds it on three sides and a waste of an opportunity.

This was a pity for another reason — everything else about the school works exceptionally well.

It was designed by the late Erno Goldfinger, a well-known modern architect in his day, and opened in 1950. Brandlehow was recently listed and is conspicuous for its generous internal planning, the quality of its detail, large *areas of glass and* a combined feeling of strength and lightness. This is catching. Everywhere there is a sense of a happy, creative community. The imagination of the children runs through it with their *stunning* decorations, paintings, drawings and patterns. But this excellence should catch on outside as well.

While there was much else that needed attending to, they decided to focus only on the *playground because it would* make an excellent project for the children.

To get this under way, Ms Grove talked to heads of other schools in Wandsworth, and through them heard about an educationally orientated group called ArchEd run by Rob Dark and Ian Horton, two architects who have been working with schoolchildren since 1992.

Why an appreciation of architecture has not been included in the curriculum alongside art has remained a mystery for a long time. Pictures of period buildings, for example, can help to bring a history lesson to life.

Such is not ArchEd's aim, but that is not to say it won't happen in the future for older children. For now, as illustrated by the Brandlehow experiment, Mr Dark and Mr Horton work to increase children's knowledge and understanding of architecture, to give them some idea of what goes into the making of their surroundings so that, they say, children can learn how to enjoy and contribute to the field. To accomplish that is an achievement in itself and ArchEd *is the first in the field* to attempt it.

The architects say they have never worked with such young children before and were *amazed by their imaginative* responses.

This could, they believe, be because Ms Grove and Ms Winn had decided that the proposals were to be a real undertaking, not a theoretical project. *In this way it was a* venture with a practical purpose, and had the *special* function of finding a way of separating activities in the playground (some wanted to play football, some played other games) without dividing it.

This is where imagination came in. The aim was both to improve the space and make it more excit*ing, an adventure playground,* so to speak.

ArchEd visited once a week, mornings only, between November 8 and December 6 last year to show the children how an architect would approach the problem, to introduce them to the design process, to the use of a scale as a measure, *and to the presentation of the* design with drawings, perspectives and models.

As a basis to work from, and to have a picture of the area *involved, Mr Dark and Mr* Horton produced a plan which they called a "bird's-eye view", showing the outline of the playground, the school *and its boundaries.*

There were photographs of special features which the children had to locate on the plan; and a "brief", the list of possible activities — *anything* from games to gardening, nature trails and mazes — that might be included. Anything, in fact, to stimulate the imagi*nation.*

The project worked on a series of levels. On one it generated the thrill of discovery. On another, there was the practical educational *outcome* via cross-fertilisation of subjects: measuring the buildings and tree heights brings in maths; the study of types of trees by the shapes of their leaves *evokes nature;* observation of the characteristics and detail of nearby houses involves drawing and painting; and the story of the school site — the original was bombed during the Sec*ond World War — is* local history.

From being immersed in the excitement of beavering about among all this, the children gained the confidence to make the leap from collecting facts to *applying them in* design, drawings and models.

So far, the scheme has been funded from a government regeneration budget. What is needed now is a *further grant* to finish the job.

The taste of adventure must not turn sour

Phil Revell on the measures taken since the Lyme Bay tragedy

As summer approaches, many parents will be receiving information *from schools about children's* activity holidays. Most schools organise some kind of adventurous activity, ranging from treks across the Himalayas to *nature walks in the local park.*

Schools stress the development aspects of these trips and most parents would concur. However, the risks were high*lighted four years ago this* week when four students died on what should have been a simple canoeing trip across Lyme Bay in Dorset. After the *Lyme Bay disaster there was a* public outcry.

Investigations revealed that instructors were barely qualified to take themselves on to *the sea and that the alarm was* raised far too late. Peter Kite, the centre's managing director, was found guilty of manslaughter and served a prison sentence.

The judge hearing the case *commented: "Where parents* and teachers send their children for activity holidays, the potential for injury or death is too obvious to be left for the inadequate vagaries of self-regulation."

David Jamieson, *MP for the* Plymouth constituency where the Lyme Bay victims lived, helped to lobby for a new licensing system. Eventually the Government brought in the Activity Centres (Young Persons Safety) Act *which* allowed for the inspection and registration of activity centres.

Tourism Quality Services in Cardiff won the contract to *administer the* inspection scheme and are currently processing applications from the *thousand or so centres that* may need to be licensed.

Marcus Baillie is the director of the inspection authority, the Adventurous Activities Licensing Association (AALA). Mr Baillie is an expedition canoeist with wide experiences of outdoor education, and his appointment reassured many within the industry who had been concerned about a too *bureaucratic structure.*

But some confusion remains. Not all activities are covered by the *legislation,* and many centres continue to operate without a licence. *Trips abroad are not* covered at all.

Nor are schools covered for any adventurous activities that they provide for their pupils. The Consumers Association pressed for schools to be included *when the legislation* was first considered. Their spokesman says: "All children are entitled to the same level of protection ... the regulations *are not going to do the job that* parents expect. People are looking for a guarantee that a minimum standard of safety will be met."

Gordonstoun, in Scotland, is world-famous for the adventurous slant of *its curriculum.* Students sail and often trek in the Cairngorms. James Thomas, the director of external affairs, says: "It is of vital importance *that* the people who lead these things are as well qualified as they possibly can be, and their qualifications must keep abreast of ongoing developments."

Martin Hudson, who chairs the British Activity Holidays Association, welcomes the new regulations, but says: "Good providers *may* be unable to obtain licences because they are outside the scope of the Act." The association is so concerned about the possible *confusion* that it has set up its own independent inspection regime, which *will* cover centres operating outside the UK.

The AALA is aware of the potential for misunderstanding that lies within the regulatory *structure.* Over the past few months officials have been in discussion with activity providers not at present covered by the *regulations* with a view to setting up a voluntary scheme.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme and the Scout Association have been involved in the discussions, and John Welsh Heron, *the* AALA spokesman, believes a voluntary scheme could be in operation before the end of the year.

In the meantime, four years after Lyme Bay, parents still do not have a foolproof method of checking the status of *an* activity holiday provider.

● *Parents can check whether centres have been licensed by ringing the Adventure Activities Licensing Authority on 01222 755715.*

هكذا من الاصل

POSTS

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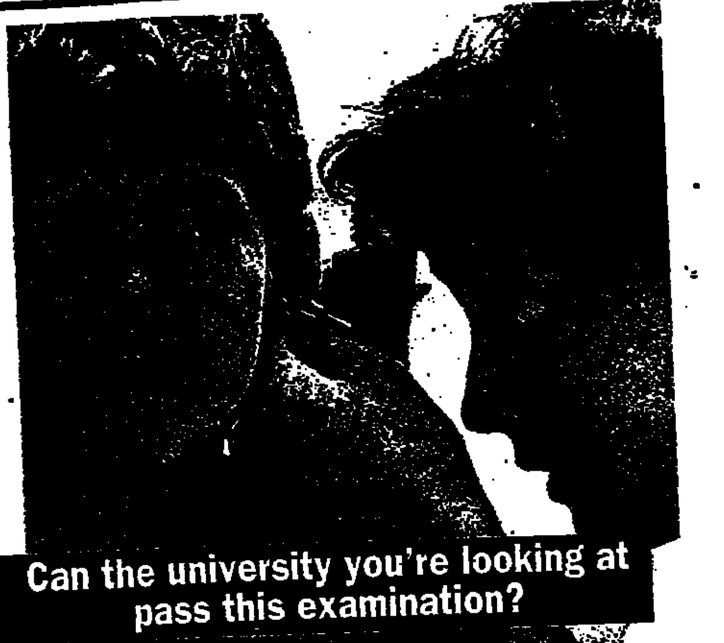
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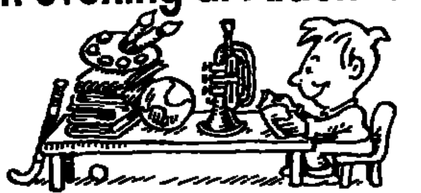

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[illegible]

RACING: ITALIAN JOCKEY PICKS UP WHERE HE LEFT OFF WITH ILLUMINATING DOUBLE ON TURF SEASON'S OPENING DAY AT DONCASTER

Dettori returns to action in familiar style

By Julian Muscat

THE alchemist in Frankie Dettori transformed an ordinary Doncaster card into something of an occasion yesterday. The Italian's magic rubbed off on his first two mounts, his followers revelling in a near 24-1 double as Dettori picked up where he left off.

Dettori "awareness" gathered momentum well before the stalls snapped open to herald the start of Flat season on turf. On a windswept afternoon, his bronzed features announced a deal raising the Tote's awareness among racegoers. The pool betting chain responded by incorporating a little of Dettori's native tongue into its sponsorship of the Brocklesby Stakes.

"Benvenuto", or welcome, bode the Tote — which may well be extending the greeting to its new chairman, who could be revealed today. Dettori, for his part, delivered his own welcome when landing the previous heat.

It needed no imagination to envisage him prevailing in the Back A Winner By Train Handicap. He was riding Miracle Kid, but the horse, trained by John Gosden, proved so superior that Dettori's talismanic qualities were not required. Miracle Kid's victory confirmed reports that John Gosden, who trains the colt, has made an early start on the Newmarket gallops. The detail was rammed home an hour later, when Canyon Creek cut down the fancied Yeast in the Sporting Life Doncaster Mile.

Canyon Creek is an interesting individual. Knee damage restricted him to a solitary outing at Pontefract last season and Sheikh Mohammed's four-year-old was thrown to the wolves here. Yet he responded as only a good one can, travelling strongly before quickening clear under a considerate ride. His victory was all the more meritorious for his obvious discomfort on the prevailing fast surface.

"John [Gosden] has trained the horse very sympathetically," the sheikh's racing manager, Anthony Stroud, said. "He was an unsound horse last year and the plan was to have him ready early to take advantage of easy ground — which he did not have." A son of Mr Prospector out of the smart River Memories, Canyon Creek could easily scale greater peaks in the months ahead.

Stroud also testified that heavy rains in Dubai had temporarily closed Nad Al Sheba racetrack, where runners for next week's Dubai World Cup have been held up in their preparation. Singspiel (the mount of Jerry Bailey), Flemensfirth and Luso (Mick Kinane), will represent Sheikh Mohammed's British interests and the sheikh must be hoping a favourable weather forecast becomes reality in the next 48 hours. "It is ironic," Stroud said. "We could do with some rain over here."

Yeast's eclipse by Canyon Creek did nothing to dampen optimism for his stablemate, Alamein, in the Lincoln Handicap tomorrow. Alamein heads Ladbrokes' list at 8-1, but the market move yesterday was for Tumbleweed Ridge, clipped to 10-1 from 14-1. Supporters of the four-year-old — reportedly back to his smart juvenile form — were themselves encouraged when Meehan landed the Brocklesby Stakes with Blueridge Dancer.

Mark Johnston made no secret of his regard for Fly To The Stars and the colt justified his billing when running away with the Melton Wood Maiden Stakes over a mile. Johnston was sufficiently encouraged to point the colt at one of the 2,000 Guineas trials next month.

This opening fixture at Doncaster perennially promotes a feeling of mild embarrassment in the executive. However, suggestions that the Turf season may commence a week or two after its close in November brought a perplexed response from John Smee, an executive on the British Horseracing Board's race planning committee. "There is little racecourse interest in [Flat] Turf racing beyond early November, when the jumpers are out in force," Smee said. No problem: just make sure Dettori turns up on this day in 12 months' time.

They're off for the opening race of the new Turf Flat season at Doncaster yesterday, won by the 13-2 chance Galapino. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: MITHAK
(3.40 Doncaster)
Next best: Artful Dane
(3.10 Doncaster)

DONCASTER

THUNDERER

1.30 Who Nose
2.05 Inchcailloch
2.35 Cretan Gift
3.10 Artful Dane
3.40 Mithak
4.10 **COMPATIBILITY** (nap)

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.05 *Magic Combination.* 3.40 Heritage. 4.10 **COMPATIBILITY** *(nap).*

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 ... B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing: J if jumps, F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (GOOD IN PLACES) SIS
TOTE JACKPOT MEETING DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

1.30 BAWTRY MAIDEN SELLING STAKES
(2-Y-O: £2,511: 5f) (9 runners)

101	(9)	JACKERIN (J Young) B Rothwell 9-0	M Fenton	–
102	(5)	LORD SMITH (Mrs M Teversham) W G M Turner 9-0	T Sprake	–
103	(2)	VALSLASTCHANCE (Mrs V Wright) N Tinkler 9-0	Kim Tinkler	–
104	(6)	WHO NOSE (Abbott Racing Ltd) B Meehan 9-0	M Tebbutt	–
105	(3)	HOPEFULLY (A Merza) M Channon 8-9	T Quinn	–
106	(4)	I'M NOT SURE (M Bernstein (Racing) Ltd) J Berry 8-9	G Carter	–
107	(1)	PINK TICKET (J Pugh) P Evans 8-9	J F Egan	–
108	(8)	RACING SURVEYOR (A Black & Co) M W Easterby 8-9	Dale Gibson	–
109	(7)	SIPPING SODA (K Ivory) K Ivory 8-9	Martin Dwyer (3)	–

BETTING: 3-1 I'm Not Sure, 4-1 Hopefully, 5-1 Lord Smith, Who Nose, Pink Ticket, 7-1 Sipping Soda, 8-1 others.

1996: HIT OR MISS 8-9 T Quinn (11-4 fav) M Channon 7 ran

2.05 TOWN MOOR HANDICAP
C4

(£5,353: 2m 2f) (10 runners)

201	(9)	3/53030-	THALJANAH 288 (F,G) (W Clifford) B Smart 5-10-0	R Cochrane	93
202	(6)	131402-	MAGIC COMBINATION 38J (F,G) (Mrs B Curley) B Curley 4-9-11	L Dettori	–
203	(2)	40/0211-	INCHCAILLOCH 90J (D,F,G,S) (F Carter) J King 8-9-10	R Havlin (3)	94
204	(8)	404600-	INVEST WISELY 52J (D,F,G) (A Chappell) M Hammond 5-9-7	J Fortune	95
205	(5)	431565-	UPPER MOUNT CLAIR 229 (CD,F,G) (C Britain) C Brittain 7-9-3	M Roberts	82
206	(1)	005-322	NOUFARI 6 (BF,G) (E Weetman) R Hollinshead 6-9-0	F Lynch (3)	[illegible]
207	(10)	331600/	BRUMON 13J (V,F,G) (M Flynn) D Moffatt 6-8-3	Darren Moffatt	–
208	(7)	0040-66	EVEZIO RUFO 15J (S) (T Clarke) N Littmoden 5-8-2	A Daly (5)	94
209	(4)	00-3221	MASTER FOODBROKER 35 (B,G) (Baughton Insulation) W Musson 9-7-11	J Quinn	98
210	(3)	15211-4	ONEFOURSEVEN 13 (F,G) (J Roundtree) J Eyre 4-7-11	T Williams	97

BETTING: 9-4 Inchcailloch, 5-1 Noufari, 6-1 Magic Combination, Upper Mount Clair, Invest Wisely, 8-1 others.

1996: SHADIRWAN 5-9-4 T Quinn (10-1) R Akehurst 20 ran

FORM FOCUS

INCHCAILLOCH beat En Vacances neck in handicap at Newmarket (2m 2f, good). NOUFARI 4l 2nd to Random Kindness in conditions race at Wolverhampton (AW, 2m). MASTER FOODBROKER beat La Menorquina short-head in handicap at Southwell (AW, 2m). ONEFOURSEVEN 3¼l 4th to Premier Dance in handicap at Wolverhampton (1m 7f). Selection: NOUFARI

2.35 MANELINE-SOLOCOMB HANDICAP
C4

(£6,302: 6f) (22 runners)

301	(4)	100021-	LORD HIGH ADMIRAL 174 (C,F,G,S) (Elite Club) M Heaton-Ellis 9-10-0	M Roberts	92
302	(12)	001-262	BOLD EFFORT 13 (V,D,F,G,S) (A Richards) K Cunningham-Brown 5-9-13	T Quinn	90
303	(7)	0015-12	CRETAN GIFT 13 (V,D,BF,F,G) (T Clarke) N Littmoden 6-9-9	T G McLaughlin	[illegible]
304	(19)	350030-	SIR JOEY 153 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs A G Sims) P Murphy 8-9-9	D Harrison	92
305	(15)	353243-	JO MELL 160 (G) (C Newton Jnr Ltd) T Easterby 4-9-8	M Birch	93
306	(6)	660010-	CHARLIE SILLETT 139 (C,D,F,S) (J Sillett) B Hills 5-9-8	M Hills	91
307	(16)	001003-	GARNOCK VALLEY 125 (CD,F,G,S) (R Aird) J Berry 7-9-6	G Carter	94
308	(21)	000020-	TILER 125 (D,F,S) (Mrs C Robinson) M Johnston 5-9-6	J Weaver	94
309	(17)	210000-	SEA-DEER 153 (D,F,G,S) (M Foulger) C Dwyer 8-9-5	R Cochrane	95
310	(2)	411420-	KILDEE LAD 188 (D,F,G) (J O'Donovan) A Jones 7-9-4	T Sprake	90
311	(3)	221133-	WEETMAN'S WEIGH 317 (D,F,G,S) (E Weetman Ltd) R Hollinshead 4-9-0	L Dettori	90
312	(8)	00330-5	DAAWE 21 (CD,F,G,S) (Mrs A Malfinson) Mrs V Aconley 6-8-13	M Deering	95
313	(9)	05050-0	SO INTREPID 13 (D,F,G,S) (E Hayward) J Bradley 7-8-13	Pat Eddery	94
314	(20)	000045-	LENNOX LEWIS 126 (D,F) (Mrs A James) A Jarvis 5-8-12	W J O'Connor	94
315	(5)	0/5463-	ATTARIKH 258 (H Murphy) Mrs A King 4-8-10	F Lynch (3)	89
316	(11)	033150-	BARATO 136 (D,F,G) (D Young) Mrs J Ramsden 6-8-6	J Fortune	92
317	(22)	503-111	MANSAB 37 (D,G) (Mrs L Murphy) P Murphy 4-8-6	S Drowne	97
318	(10)	2400-53	KIRA 13 (D,F,G) (J Wilson) J Eyre 7-8-4	R Lappin	90
319	(13)	6050-06	SARIO 13 (G) (Mrs M Clayton) A Bailey 4-8-4	D Wright	86
320	(18)	006000-	MISS WATERLINE 136 (D,S) (M Lawrence) P Evans 4-8-4	J F Egan	95
321	(14)	124004-	MINDRACE 169 (F) (D Abbott) K Ivory 4-8-4	Martin Dwyer (3)	86
322	(1)	111311	SENSE OF PRIORITY 23 (D,F,G) (M Scaife) D Nicholls 8-7-13	Iona Wands (7)	98

BETTING: 7-1 Barato, 8-1 Mansab, 10-1 Sense Of Priority, Cretan Gift, Weetman's Weigh, 12-1 Lord High Admiral, Tiler, 14-1 others.

1996: ANZIO 5-9-0 Pat Eddery (11-1) Miss G Kelleway 21 ran

FORM FOCUS

LORD HIGH ADMIRAL beat Gone Savage 1¼l in 15-runner handicap at Haydock (5f, good) with KIRA (11lb better off) 5l 8th and DAAWE (1lb better off) 7l 10th. CRETAN GIFT 1¼l 2nd of 7 to The Happy Fox in handicap at Wolverhampton (AW, 5f). JO MELL 1¾l 3rd of 27 to Persian Fayre in handicap at York (7f, good). GARNOCK VALLEY 2½l 3rd of 13 to Prima Silk in handicap at Wolverhampton (AW, 6f) with TILER (12lb better off) 4½l 7th. LENNOX LEWIS about 7½l 5th of 11 to Apollo Red in claimer at Lingfield (AW, 7f). MANSAB beat BOLD EFFORT (3lb worse off) ¾l in 8-runner handicap at Wolverhampton (AW, 7f). Selection: GARNOCK VALLEY

3.10 WORTHINGTON SPRING MILE HANDICAP
C4

(£15,790: 1m str) (23 runners)

401	(9)	11303-0	HIGH PREMIUM 79 (CD,BF,F,G) (J Parsons) R Fahey 9-9-10	A Culhane	91
402	(17)	500602-	SANDMOOR CHAMBRAY 132 (C,F,G) T Easterby 6-9-10	M Birch	94
403	(23)	0022-45	NIGHT WINK 20 (D,F,G) (Mrs D Benjamin) G L Moore 5-9-10	Martin Dwyer (3)	89
404	(12)	3234-14	ZURS 13 (D,G) (N Dearman) Miss G Kelleway 4-9-9	D Holland	86
405	(20)	521043-	ROYAL RESULT 155 (D,F) (M Burke's Settlement) T Barron 4-9-9	D Harrison	89
406	(7)	0/00000-	NIGHT DANCE 41J (D,F,G,S) (Racecourse Officers) K Morgan 5-9-9	R Ffrench (7)	–
407	(19)	32160-6	CAUDILLO 13 (D,G) (W Harrison-Allan) Mrs P Dutfield 4-9-9	A Procter	–
408	(3)	410000-	THERHEA 148 (D,S) (R Gadge, C Lewis, M Calvert) B Millman 4-9-7	T Sprake	90
409	(14)	3/3400-6	SHINEROLLA 13 (D,F,G) (& Mrs R Green) C Parker 5-9-6	D R McCabe	94
410	(2)	5080-04	AT LIBERTY 20 (D,F,G) (B Adams) R Hannon 5-9-6	Dane O'Neill	85
411	(8)	356154-	SMARTER CHARTER 226 (D,F) (Consultco Ltd) Mrs L Stubbs 4-9-4	K Fallon	90
412	(10)	46135-5	SUEZ TORNADO 13 (D,G) (J Barry) E Alston 4-9-4	J Fortune	88
413	(22)	030540-	PROUD MONK 132 (S) (R Higson) G L Moore 4-9-2	S Whitworth	86
414	(13)	13-4266	BARREL OF HOPE 37 (B,F,G,S) (P Watson) J Eyre 5-9-2	T Williams	92
415	(6)	001536-	ARTFUL DANE 139 (V,D,F) (S Lansdown Racing) M Heaton-Ellis 5-9-1	M Roberts	92
416	(1)	066000-	MAPLE BAY 21J (D,G,S) (Ferrograph Ltd) B Ellison 8-9-1	P Roberts (5)	96
417	(4)	012/080-	LA VOLTA 223 (F) (Lord Lloyd-Webber) J FitzGerald 4-9-1	J Weaver	–
418	(5)	220153-	SHARP SHUFFLE 147 (G) (Mrs H Prendergast) R Hannon 4-9-0	Pat Eddery	90
419	(18)	301110-	CRYSTAL HEIGHTS 209 (D,F,G) (J Joseph) R O'Sullivan 9-8-13	S Sanders	88
420	(11)	34450-0	CASHMERE LADY 18 (D,G) (Mrs S Howe) J Eyre 5-8-13	R Lappin	98
421	(21)	400000-	KNOBBLEENEEZE 139 (V,C,D,F,G,S) (A Andrews) M Channon 7-8-8	L Dettori	98
422	(16)	11-2500	THREE WEEKS 20 (D,G) (DJ Wiltshire) W Muir 4-8-3	J Bramhill (5)	87
423	(15)	164160	DUKE VALENTINO 13 (D,G) (J Bagg) R Hollinshead 5-8-1	J Quinn	[illegible]

BETTING: 8-1 Artful Dane, 9-1 Sandmoor Chambray, 10-1 High Premium, Shinerolla, 12-1 Royal Result, Sharp Shuffle, Therhea, 16-1 others

1996: COOL EDGE 5-9-9 P Robinson (20-1) M Tompkins 21 ran

FORM FOCUS

HIGH PREMIUM best effort 5½l 3rd of 12 to South Eastern Fred in handicap at Wolverhampton (AW, 1m 1f 79yds) on penultimate start. SANDMOOR CHAMBRAY 1¼l 3rd of 21 to Mels Baby in handicap over course and distance (soft) with PROUD MONK 12l 11th and MAPLE BAY (7lb better off) 18l 16th. ROYAL RESULT about 6l 3rd of 13 to Dilazar in handicap at Redcar (1m, good to firm). NIGHT DANCE best effort 12l 10th of 11 to Hugwity in handicap at Goodwood (1m, good) on penultimate start. THERHEA 17l 12th of 21 to Edan Heights in handicap at Newbury (1m 2f, soft). DUKE VALENTINO best effort beat Jigsaw Boy 3½l in 8-runner claimer at Wolverhampton (AW, 7f), Feb 97. Selection: HIGH PREMIUM

3.40 P & J FOODS MAIDEN STAKES
C4

(3-Y-O: £3,688: 1m 2f 60yd) (8 runners)

501	(3)	4-	HERITAGE 177 (Highclere Thoroughbred Racing Ltd) J Gosden 9-0	L Dettori	87
502	(7)		ILE DE LIBRATE (Stampcargo Racing Partnership) R O'Sullivan 9-0	A Procter	–
503	(4)	45-	MANILENO 172 (C Barber-Lomax) J Hetherton 9-0	N Kennedy	–
504	(5)	33-	MITHAK 215 (Hamdan Al Maktoum) B Hills 9-0	M Hills	[illegible]
505	(8)	4-	ONE FOR BAILEYS 134 (G Bailey Ltd (Baileys Horse Feeds)) M Johnston 9-0	J Weaver	86
506	(1)		RARE TALENT (A Merza) M Channon 9-0	Paul Eddery	–
507	(2)	63P-	SWIFTWAY 148 (A White) K Hogg 9-0	D McKeown	71
508	(6)		NAMBUCCA (Lord Howard de Walden) Mrs J Cecil 8-9	K Darley	–

BETTING: 6-4 Mithak, 2-1 Heritage, 5-1 One For Baileys, 7-1 Nambucca, 8-1 Rare Talent, 25-1 Swiftway, 33-1 others.

1996: SUMMER SPELL 9-0 S Sanders (13-2) R Charlton 11 ran

FORM FOCUS

HERITAGE about 7½l 4th of 11 to Voyagers Quest in maiden at Goodwood (1m, good to firm). MANILENO 19½l 5th of 6 to Hindsight in auction maiden at Hamilton (1m 65yd, good to soft). MITHAK 2l 3rd of 17 to Monza in maiden at Newbury (7f, good). ONE FOR BAILEYS 6½l 4th of 7 to Weilaki in maiden at Musselburgh (1m, good to soft). SWIFTWAY best effort 2¾l 3rd of 5 to Windsor Castle in maiden at Redcar (1m 1f, firm) on penultimate start. Selection: MITHAK (nap)

4.10 MEXBOROUGH MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O: £3,720: 7f) (8 runners)

601	(1)	0-	COMPATIBILITY 253 (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 9-0	L Dettori	–
602	(5)		HONOURABLE (Sheikh Mohammed) J Watts 9-0	W Ryan	–
603	(4)	40-	JUST GRAND 133 (Maktoum Al Maktoum) M Johnston 9-0	J Weaver	86
604	(6)	3-	TITTA RUFFO 170 (M Lankanchi) B Meehan 9-0	M Tebbutt	[illegible]
605	(7)	3-	ZAAHIR 140 (Hamdan Al Maktoum) B Hills 9-0	M Hills	89
606	(2)	034240-	ZARETSKI 169 (B Vonk) C Brittain 9-0	M Roberts	82
607	(8)	00-	DORADO BEACH 158 (R Richards) B Hills 8-9	J D Smith (5)	–
608	(3)		HIGHLY RESPECTED (G Mylson) A Bailey 8-9	S Sanders	–

BETTING: 5-2 Zaahir, 7-2 Zaretski, 4-1 Compatibility, 5-1 Just Grand, 7-1 Titta Ruffo, 8-1 Honourable, 10-1 others.

1996: SORBIE TOWER 9-0 R Cochrane (6-1) Miss G Kelleway 14 ran

FORM FOCUS

COMPATIBILITY 13l 8th of 13 to Grapeshot in maiden at Newmarket (6f, good to firm). JUST GRAND best effort about neck and head 4th of 10 to Onalius in maiden at Leicester (7f, good). TITTA RUFFO 4l 3rd of 18 to Dacoit in maiden at Salisbury (7f, good to soft). ZAAHIR 4¼l 3rd of 11 to Kumait in maiden at Newmarket (6f, good). ZARETSKI best effort 1¼l 2nd of 5 to Dickie Bird in maiden at Goodwood (7f, good to firm), Aug 96. DORADO BEACH best effort 9½l 9th of 12 to Bint Albaadiya in maiden at Lingfield (6f, good) on penultimate start. Selection: ZARETSKI

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
Miss G Kelleway	5	21	23.8	D Holland	9	45	20.0
J Gosden	27	128	21.1	L Dettori	33	183	18.0
B Hills	25	139	18.0	M Hills	26	150	17.3
M Channon	12	79	15.2	S Sanders	6	38	15.8
Mrs J Cecil	5	37	13.5	W Ryan	19	121	15.7

Artful Dane can profit from visor

DONCASTER
CHANNEL 4

2.05: **Magic Combination** could be aptly named with Frankie Dettori having been booked to ride by Barney Curley. The selection possessed decent form in Ireland when with Kevin Prendergast, winning three races and finishing second to Theatreworld last season. The four-year-old has shaped with some promise in three runs over hurdles here and looks reasonable treated.

TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

Noufari has won five races on the Fibresand but the Reg Hollinshead-trained stayer, a good fourth behind Celeric in the Northumberland Plate at Newcastle last year, looks nicely weighted on previous runnings against Invest Wisely and Upper Mount Clair.

2.35: Unbeaten in three starts on the all-weather, **Mansab** looks well treated on his return to the Turf, racing off a handicap mark 4lb lower than when completing his treble at Wolverhampton 37 days ago. Les Eyre was on the mark yesterday with Brutal Fantasy and the consistent Kira should be race-fit after two recent outings on the all-weather. In a wide-open sprint handicap, a case can be made out for several rivals, including Tiler, Weetman's Weigh and Daawe.

3.10: **Artful Dane** recorded improved performances when headgear was worn last autumn, including two good runs over Newmarket's demanding mile. A visor is worn today and, with Michael Roberts booked by the in-form Mikey Heaton-Ellis, he looks to have solid claims.

Pat Eddery is an eye-catching booking for Sharp Shuffle, while Shinerolla comes into calculations after an encouraging return at Wolverhampton recently. The Colin Parker-trained runner, fourth in the Lincoln last year, is particularly well handicapped on his best form.

3.40: Barry Hills invariably has a winner or two at this meeting and **Mithak** can begin to justify his $160,000 price tag by improving on two decent efforts last term. Third to the well-regarded Benny The Dip on his debut at Newmarket, the Silver Hawk colt did even better behind Monza at Newbury and he is a solid form choice.

Mark Johnston and John Gosden were among the winners yesterday and clearly have their strings well forward. Their respective runners, One For Baileys and Heritage, look the dangers.

Richard Evans

NEWBURY

THUNDERER

1.50 Absolutly Equiname. 2.25 Hatcham Boy. 2.55 Lively Encounter. *3.25 Ryming Cuplet.* 4.00 Terao. *4.35* Northern Fleet.

Carl Evans: 3.25 Ardbrennan.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (CHASE COURSE); GOOD (HURDLES) SIS

1.50 WANTAGE NOVICES HURDLE
(£3,176: 3m 110yd) (14 runners)

1	-321	ABSOLUTLY EQUINAME 27 (G) M Heaton-Ellis 6-11-12	B Powell	84
2	2451	IONIO 22 (G) Mrs V Ward 6-11-12	J R Kavanagh	[illegible]
3	1423	READY MONEY CREEK 28 (G) O Sherwood 6-11-12	J Osborne	88
4	2351	MENESONIC 14 (S) R Alner 7-11-8	P Henley (3)	97
5	0	ARTISTIC PLAN 29 R Alner 5-11-4	Mr R Thornton (5)	–
6	03-	CHRISTCHURCH 18 S Earle 7-11-4	C Maude	79
7	4P	CLARKES GORSE 32 J Gifford 6-11-4	P Hide	–
8	6045	COOL HARRY 9 H Haynes 6-11-4	Mr S Durack (7)	72
9		JOHNNYMOSS S Earle 8-11-4	W McFarland	–
10	0005	LOOK IN THE MIRROR 23 N Twiston-Davies 6-11-4	C Llewellyn	–
11	F	ROADRUNNER 21 Mrs L Richards 7-11-4	M Richards	–
12	00	SPIRIT OF SUCCESS 94 N Lampard 7-11-4	Mr A Kinane	–
13	10/	SUPREME RAMBLER 829 (G) B Smart 8-11-4	W Marston	–
14	023	TREMPLIN 27 N Henderson 6-10-13	M A Fitzgerald	74

5-2 Ionio, 11-4 Menesonic, 5-1 Absolutly Equiname, 6-1 Ready Money Creek, 12-1 Tremplin, Christchurch, Look In The Mirror, 20-1 others.

2.25 BETTERTON NOVICES CHASE (£3,574: 3m) (5)

1	1U2P	HATCHAM BOY 41 (CD,G,S) D Nicholson 7-11-12	R Johnson	[illegible]
2	4344	AMBER VALLEY 2 (S) D Williams 6-11-4	Mr S Durack (7)	91
3	0PFP	DEXTRA 14 (B) S Earle 7-11-4	C Maude	–
4	23PP	ELITE GOVERNOR 45 (F,G) N Lampard 8-11-4	Mr L Baker (7)	81
5	-620	LINTON ROCKS 10 (F,G,S) T Thomson Jones 8-11-4	B Powell	–

5-4 Hatcham Boy, 7-4 Linton Rocks, 4-1 Amber Valley, 20-1 Elite Governor, 33-1 Dextra

2.55 SABIN DU LOIR MAIDEN HURDLE
(£4,103: 2m 5f) (21)

1		ARCTIC CHARMER 564F Mrs S Odell 5-11-9	T J O'Sullivan	–
2	543-	BLAZING DOVE 314 A Price 6-11-9	S Wynne	–
3	6	BREATH OF SCANDAL 90 (BF) O Sherwood 6-11-9	J Osborne	–
4	1-04	BURN OUT 13 (G) J Pearce 5-11-9	J O'Shaughnessy (7)	96
5	6	COCKPIT 254 G Balding 6-11-9	B Clifford	–
6	6-0	CONQUER THE KILT 20 J Mullins 6-11-9	S Curran	–
7	12-3	EVER BLESSED 128 (S) Mrs J Pitman 5-11-9	D Leahy	91
8	5	FATHER HENRY 35 N Henderson 6-11-9	M A Fitzgerald	88
9	4002	FOXES LAD 14 D Nicholson 6-11-9	R Johnson	96
10		HAPPY HENRY 27P R Alner 7-11-9	Mr I Dowrick	–
11		HIGH SUMMER 161F T Thomson Jones 7-11-9	J Culloty	–
12	0	HOUR HORSE 27 N Hawke 6-11-9	C Maude	–
13	0-4P	IMPERIAL HONORS 82 N Lampard 6-11-9	Chris Webb (5)	–
14	4528	LIVELY ENCOUNTER 13 (S) Mrs M Jones 6-11-9	Derek Byrne	[illegible]
15	PP	PROUD TOBY 104 G Balding 7-11-9	J R Kavanagh	–
16	1543	QUINI EAGLE 58 (S) M Pipe 5-11-9	Jamie Evans	88
17	0/0	RELKANDER 21 Mrs J Pitman 7-11-9	B Powell	–
18	5/3	RICH TYCOON 9 P Rich 8-11-9	W Marston	76
19	2-0	TOM PINCH 13 G Balding 8-11-9	R Greene	80
20	0640	WARRIO 109 M Bosley 7-11-9	L Harvey	–
21	-3P0	MADAM'S WALK 22 N Twiston-Davies 7-11-4	C Llewellyn	75

7-2 Ever Blessed, 5-1 Lively Encounter, 6-1 Foxes Lad, 7-1 Breath Of Scandal, 8-1 Quini Eagle, Burn Out, 12-1 others

3.25 ALISON ASSOCIATES HUNTERS CHASE
(Amateurs: £2,775: 3m) (7)

1	21-5	EXPRESSMENT 23 (G,S) Miss A Rees 13-12-10	G Penfold (7)	77
2	5P1	RYMING CUPLET 15 (F,G,S) M Trickey 12-12-10	L Jefford (7)	[illegible]
3	UURF	ALAPA 20P A Coogan 10-12-4	V Coogan (7)	–
4	321F	ARDBRENNAN 26P (F,G) J Porter 10-12-4	E James (7)	–
5	22-2	FOX POINTER 22 (F,S) Mrs L Evans 12-12-4	R Thornton (5)	86
6	322P	TEATRADER 8 (F,G,S) Miss T Blazey 11-12-4	Miss T Blazey (7)	76
7	-FF3	THE BODHRAN 8P M Gillard 7-12-4	R Nuttall (7)	–

5-4 Ryming Cuplet, 11-4 Fox Pointer, 9-2 Expressment, 10-1 Teatrader, 12-1 Ardbrennan, 20-1 The Bodhran, 25-1 Alapa

4.00 PAUL CROUCHER MEMORIAL TROPHY HANDICAP CHASE (£4,728: 2m 4f) (6)

1	4P0-	MR JAMBOREE 347 (C,D,F,G) D Gandolfo 11-11-10	D Fortt (3)	91
2	4021	TERAO 9 (CD,F,S) M Pipe 11-11-10 (6ex)	T J Murphy	93
3	-PP4	MASTER BOSTON 17 (D,G,S) R Woodhouse 9-11-8	R Guest	–
4	351P	COOLREE 34 (CD,F,G,S) P Nicholls 9-10-9	M A Fitzgerald	89
5	232-	CHANGE THE ACT 363 (CD,F,G,S) Mrs V Williams 12-10-7	R Johnson	92
6	-F22	HIGH ALLTITUDE 21 (G,S) M Heaton-Ellis 9-10-2	B Powell	[illegible]

5-4 Terao, 7-2 High Alltitude, 5-1 Coolree, Change The Act, 10-1 Mr Jamboree, 16-1 Master Boston

4.35 NEWBURY RACECOURSE STATION HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,318: 2m 110yd) (4)

1	2515	RED RAJA 27 (D,G,S) P Mitchell 12-0	J Osborne	[illegible]
2	2424	NORTHERN FLEET 38 Mrs A Perrett 11-2	M A Fitzgerald	92
3	1062	FAIRLY SHARP 14 (D,BF,F) G Roe 10-10	R Guest	98
4	350	PROVINCE 27 C Mann 10-0	J Magee (3)	86

6-4 Red Raja, 7-4 Northern Fleet, 5-2 Fairly Sharp, 14-1 Province

COURSE SPECIALISTS

NEWBURY: Trainers. D Nicholson, 30 winners from 115 runners, 26.1%. O Sherwood, 18 from 66, 24.6%. N Henderson, 21 from 104, 20.2%; R Alner, 5 from 28, 17.9%; M Pipe, 14 from 92, 15.2%, Mrs J Pitman, 8 from 53, 15.1%.

Jockeys: J Osborne, 40 winners from 151 rides, 26.5%. D Fortt, 3 from 13, 23.1%; W Marston, 9 from 56, 16.1%. C Llewellyn, 15 from 109, 13.8%. P Hide, 9 from 75, 12.0%.

KELSO: Trainers. P Calver, 3 winners from 7 runners, 42.9%. Mrs Jane Storey, 6 from 17, 35.3%. Mrs M Reveley, 37 from 126, 29.4%. Mrs J Goodfellow, 13 from 52, 25.0%. J G FitzGerald, 4 from 16, 25.0%; M Hammond, 23 from 105, 21.9%.

Jockeys: E Callaghan, 3 winners from 6 rides, 50.0%. Mr M Bradburne, 4 from 11, 36.4%. P Niven, 49 from 137, 35.8%. Mr C Storey, 6 from 21, 28.6%. R Garritty, 10 from 49, 20.4%.

RACELINE
0930 168+
COMMENTARY RESULTS
DONCASTER 101 201
NEWBURY 102 202
KELSO 103 203
FULL RESULTS SERVICE 168

KELSO

THUNDERER

1.40 Son Of Anshan. 2.15 Mr Knitwit. 2.45 Supreme Soviet. 3.15 Son Of Iris. 3.50 Jigtime. 4.20 Derannie. 4.50 Mister Ross.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 4.20 **DERANNIE.**

Carl Evans: 3.50 Jigtime.

GOING: GOOD SIS

1.40 PERCY ARMS JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,815: 2m 2f) (12 runners)

1	21F1	SON OF ANSHAN 13 (G,S) Mrs A Swinbank 11-10	J Supple	
2	21	CLASH OF SWORDS 21 (C,S) P Calver 11-4	L Wyer	
3	50	BOLD CLASSIC 23 C Grant 10-12	T Reed	
4	3	BOURBON DYNASTY 13 G Richards 10-12	A Dobbin	
5		CAULKER M Barnes 10-12	S Taylor (5)	
6	00	CHIEF CHIPPIE 38 W Kemp 10-12	S McDougall	
7	20	HONEYSCHOICE 59 (BF) M Hammond 10-12	R Garritty	
8	546	KNOWN SECRET 13 P Monteith 10-12	M Moloney	
9		MYSTICAL MIND 231F M Wane 10-12	A S Smith	
10	02	OVERSMAN 16 J Fitzgerald 10-12	P Niven	
11	2	ANKA'S GEM 21 Mrs S Bradburne 10-7	M Foster	
12	0	QUEEN'S COUNSEL 16 Miss M Milligan 10-7	B Storey	

7-4 Son Of Anshan, 4-1 Clash Of Swords, 9-2 Oversman, 6-1 others

2.15 TWEEDDALE PRESS NOVICES CHASE
(£3,947: 2m 1f) (8)

1	2122	MR KNITWIT 13 (G) P Monteith 10-11-8	A Dobbin
2	-F12	REAL TONIC 14 (CD,BF,G) G Richards 7-11-8	R Dunwoody
3	14F/	AMERICAN HERO 689 (F,G) R Allan 9-11-2	B Storey
4	P435	JYMJAM JOHNNY 86 (S) J J O'Neill 8-11-2	R McGrath (5)
5	2450	MALTA MAN 34 P Cheesbrough 7-11-2	A S Smith
6	PF22	MOSS PAGEANT 17 (G) F Walton 7-11-2	K Johnson
7	U044	MUSIC BLITZ 101 Mrs D Thomson 6-11-2	T Reed
8	31-3	MONKEY WENCH 16 (F) Mrs J Goodfellow 6-10-11	A Thornton

6-4 Mr Knitwit, 3-1 Real Tonic, 6-1 Jymjam Johnny, 8-1 others.

2.45 LOTHIAN PLUMBING HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,827: 2m 2f) (10)

1	4111	INGLETONIAN 13 (CD,G,S) B Mactaggart 8-12-0	B Storey
2	52P6	UNCLE DOUG 20 (C,G,S) Mrs M Reveley 6-12-0	P Niven
3	5242	HAM N'EGGS 23 (F,G) M Hammond 6-11-8	R Garritty
4	-00P	ARAGON AYR 14 (CD,G,S) P Monteith 9-11-6	C McCormack (7)
5	15/5	LINNGATE 13 (C,G,S) L Lungo 8-10-13	R Supple
6	1360	ADAMATIC 10 (CD,F,G) R Allan 6-10-6	L Wyer
7	2420	SUPREME SOVIET 15 A Whillans 7-10-2	A Dobbin
8	-440	OUR ROBERT 15 (S) J Fitzgerald 5-10-0	F Leahy (3)
9	1FF-	MONNAIE FORTE 20 (G,S) J Adam 7-10-0	J Railton
10	33/0	GOING PUBLIC 43 (F,G) P Cheesbrough 10-10-0	A S Smith

9-4 Ingletonian, 9-2 Ham N Eggs, 6-1 Our Robert, 7-1 Supreme Soviet, 8-1 others.

☐ Wolverhampton's clerk of the course, Ashley Bealby, was yesterday fined £500 by the Jockey Club's disciplinary committee for failing to keep the public informed of the abandonment of racing at Wolverhampton's jumping fixture on Boxing Day last year.

3.15 KING'S OWN SCOTTISH BORDERERS CHALLENGE CUP HANDICAP CHASE
(£4,143: 3m 1f) (5)

1	P0P3	WHAAT FETTLE 21 (CD,F,G,S) G Richards 12-11-10	A Dobbin
2	6511	SON OF IRIS 45 (CD,F,G,S) Mrs M Reveley 9-11-5	P Niven
3	4251	KILCOLGAN 13 (CD,F,S) Mrs J Goodfellow 10-11-2	N Bentley
4	2346	TIGHTER BUDGET 8 (CD,F,G,S) Mrs D Sayer 10-10-10	M Moloney
5	P321	COQUI LANE 13 (G,S) J Dun 10-10-3	D Parker

7-4 Son Of Iris, 3-1 Whaat Fettle, Kilcolgan, 5-1 Coqui Lane, 10-1 Tighter Budget.

3.50 J RUTHERFORD EARLSTON HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs: £2,211: 3m 4f) (5)

1	2-22	ROYAL JESTER 21 (CD,F,G,S) C Storey 13-12-2	C Storey (5)
2	-153	SOUTHERN MINSTREL 19P (F,G,S) N Chamberlain 14-12-2	Miss C Metcalfe (7)
3	-454	TARTAN TORNADO 10 (F,G) Mrs P Laws 11-12-2	P Johnson (5)
4	11-1	JIGTIME 21 (C,G,S) J Hughes 8-11-11	M Bradburne (7)
5	1/11	ORANGE RAGUSA 13P (F,G,S) S Shirley-Beavan 11-11-10	Miss P Robson (5)

4-6 Jigtime, 11-4 Royal Jester, 7-1 Orange Ragusa, 8-1 Southern Minstrel, 12-1 Tartan Tornado

4.20 KELSO ANNUAL MEMBERS NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE
(Div I: £2,409: 2m 6f) (15)

1	-631	DERANNIE 14 (S) G Richards 5-11-5	A Dobbin
2	BFP1	ESTABLISH 17 (C,S) J Dodds 9-11-0	A Thornton
3	32F6	CASH BOX 24 T Carr 9-10-12	N Smith
4	P-43	CHOPWELL DRAPES 18 J Howard Johnson 7-10-12	M Moloney
5		LORD PAT Miss M Milligan 6-10-12	E Callaghan (3)
6	30	MAJOR HARRIS 53 M Hammond 5-10-12	R Garritty
7	0355	MENALDI 14 P Cheesbrough 7-10-12	A S Smith
8	545	MONSIEUR DARCY 41 J Adam 6-10-12	J Railton
9	3	NO GIMMICKS 38 J Fitzgerald 5-10-12	R Dunwoody
10	FP3P	PERSIAN GRANGE 4 D Lamb 7-10-12	J Burke
11	005	POLITICAL MILLSTAR 86 R Nixon 5-10-12	B Storey
12	0/0	RAMBLING LANE 49 R Allan 8-10-12	S Melrose (7)
13		DOWSHI L Lungo 6-10-7	R Supple
14	P	JUST POLLY 82 R Alexander 5-10-7	R McGrath (5)
15	00P-	MOREFLASH 333 J Haldane 5-10-7	F Leahy (3)

7-4 Derannie, 9-2 Chopwell Drapes, 6-1 No Gimmicks, 8-1 Major Harris, 10-1 Establish, 14-1 Menaldi, 16-1 others.

4.50 KELSO ANNUAL MEMBERS NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE
(Div II £2,395: 2m 6f 110yd (14)

1	1154	MISTER ROSS 21 (C,F,G) J Howard Johnson 7-11-12	A Dobbin
2	2600	JONAEM 15 (F) Mrs E Slack 7-11-5	K Johnson
3	P065	BUSY BOY 3 D Lamb 10-10-12	J Burke
4	00	CHASING DREAMS 34 C Grant 6-10-12	R Garritty
5	0-60	FASTER RON 139 R Allan 6-10-12	S Melrose (7)
6	-525	GROSVENOR 27 (BF) G Richards 6-10-12	R Dunwoody
7	-00P	JUST ONE QUESTION 42 (G) J J O'Neill 7-10-12	P Niven
8	54	MIKE STAN 15 L Lungo 6-10-12	R Supple
9	P	PRINCE OF THYNE 14 Mrs J Goodfellow 8-10-12	N Bentley
10	6	SMILE PLEEZE 15 Mrs M Stirk 5-10-12	Mr S Swiers
11	00	WOODHOUSE LANE 15 N Chamberlain 5-10-12	Miss C Metcalfe (7)
12	00	MY MAVOURNEEN 53 Mrs S Bradburne 5-10-7	M Foster
13	3-04	STEPDAUGHTER 13 Mrs D Thomson 11-10-7	L O'Hara
14	F0	WEEJUMPAWUD 43 (G) Mrs J Storey 7-10-7	Mr C Storey

6-4 Mister Ross, 11-4 Grosvenor, 5-1 Mike Stan, 16-1 Jonaem, Faster Ron, Just One Question, 20-1 others.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Newbury: 2.25 Dextra

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Doncaster

Going: good to firm, good in places

1.30 (1m 4f) 1, Galapino (R Mullen, 13-2 jt-fav); 2, Raffles Rooster (8-1); 3, Urgent Swift (20-1); 4, Dancing Cavalier (20-1). Opera Buff 13-2 jt-fav. 24 ran. 1l, ¾l. Miss G Kelleway. Tote: £7.30; £2.00, £2.60, £7.00, £5.50. DF: £27.40. Trio: £1,367.00 (part won; pool of £673.88 carried forward to 2.35 at Doncaster today). CSF: £47.51. Tricast: £964.57.

2.05 (1m 2f 60yd) 1, Miracle Kid (L Dettori, 9-2, Thunderer's nap); 2, Love Has No Pride (12-1); 3, The Deejay (16-1); 4, Selberry (10-1). Sword Arm 3-1 fav. 15 ran. 3l, 4l. J Gosden. Tote: £6.20; £1.90, £3.40, £3.80, £3.10. DF: £39.70. Trio: £424.10. CSF: £59.88. Tricast: £779.22.

2.35 (5f) 1, Blueridge Dancer (M Tebbutt, 7-1); 2, Mister Bankes (15-2); 3, Stately Princess (4-1 jt-fav). Somosierra 4-1 jt-fav. 15 ran. 1½l, 3l. B Meehan. Tote: £13.00; £3.30, £2.80, £1.90. DF: £37.90. Trio: £139.10. CSF: £63.42.

3.10 (1m) 1, Canyon Creek (L Dettori, 7-2); 2, Yeast (Evens fav); 3, Band On The Run (20-1). 6 ran. 4l, nk. J Gosden. Tote: £3.40; £1.60, £1.40. DF: £2.60. CSF: £6.61.

3.40 (5f) 1, Brutal Fantasy (R Lappin, 13-2); 2, Ellens Lad (4-1 jt-fav); 3, Bishops Court (4-1 jt-fav). 12 ran. NR: Gold Edge. Nk, 2l. J Eyre. Tote: £7.50; £2.40, £2.00, £2.00. DF: £26.00. Trio: £27.90. CSF: £31.03. Tricast: £106.90.

4.10 (1m 2f 60yd) 1, Break The Rules (Mrs A Perrett, 7-2 fav); 2, Mels Baby (7-1); 3, Desert Fighter (11-1); 4, Mantul (9-1). 20 ran. Nk, 6l. M Pipe. Tote: £4.00; £1.30, £1.60, £3.20, £2.20. DF: £11.40. Trio: £42.30. CSF: £29.32. Tricast: £258.14.

4.40 (1m) 1, Fly To The Stars (J Weaver, 5-6 fav); 2, River's Source (3-1); 3, Burning Truth (10-1). 8 ran. 7l, 2½l. M Johnston. Tote: £1.70; £1.10, £1.40, £2.40. DF: £2.30. CSF: £3.66.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £8,977.35 carried forward to Doncaster today).

Placepot: £62.40. Quadpot: £5.40.

Wincanton

Going: good to firm, firm in places

2.15 (2m hdle) 1, Midnight Legend (R Johnson, 4-7 fav); 2, Embankment (10-1); 3, Ring Of Vision (13-2). 14 ran. 3½l, nk. D Nicholson. Tote: £1.70; £1.40, £2.30, £1.20. DF: £5.50. Trio: £5.20. CSF: £6.09.

2.45 (2m 5f ch) 1, Melwood Castle (A Thornton, 5-2); 2, Raincheck (33-1); 3, Dream Ride (8-11 fav). 6 ran. Hd, 7l. R Alner. Tote: £3.00; £1.40, £5.80. DF: £15.30. CSF: £48.53.

3.15 (3m 1f 110yd ch) 1, Fools Errand (Mr A Balding, 7-4); 2, Sunley Bay (6-4 fav); 3, Spring To It (5-2). 3 ran. NR: Danger Baby. 4l, 10l. G Balding. Tote: £2.70. DF: £2.10. CSF: £4.08.

3.50 (2m 6f hdle) 1, Motoqua (R Johnson, 1-2 fav, Private Handicapper's top rating); 2, Regal Gem (20-1); 3, Scenic Waters (9-2). 15 ran. 8l, 2½l. D Nicholson. Tote: £1.60; £1.10, £3.80, £1.50. DF: £9.80. Trio: £9.70. CSF: £16.77.

4.20 (2m 5f ch) 1, Tom's Gemini Star (Mr E James, 33-1); 2, Vital Song (7-2); 3, Northern Village (33-1). King's Treasure 5-4 fav (f). 9 ran. NR: Tom's Apache. 5l, 10l. O Carter. Tote: £51.50; £5.70, £1.20, £2.60. DF: £197.00. Trio: £144.90 (part won, pool of £71.48 carried forward to 2.35 at Doncaster today). CSF: £134.84.

4.50 (2m hdle) 1, Northern Starlight (C Maude, 13-8); 2, Easy Listening (11-8 fav); 3, Kino's Cross (12-1). 4 ran. 12l, 18l. M Pipe. Tote: £1.90. DF: £2.10. CSF: £4.06.

5.20 (2m flat race) 1, Noisy Miner (R Massey, 1-3 fav); 2, Normania (33-1); 3, Sally Scally (14-1). 14 ran. NR: Life's Work. 1½l, 1l. D Nicholson. Tote: £1.30; £1.10, £6.50, £1.90. DF: £24.30. Trio: £184.00. CSF: £27.86. After a stewards' inquiry, result stood.

Placepot: £92.70. Quadpot: £42.40.

Plumpton

Going: good to firm

2.25 (2m 4f hdle) 1, Eau De Cologne (M Richards, 2-1); 2, Lord Mills (Evens fav); 3, Prototype (16-1). 12 ran. 3½l, 7l. Mrs L Richards. Tote: £2.30; £1.10, £1.20, £1.90. DF: £2.40. Trio: £8.00. CSF: £3.88.

2.55 (2m 5f ch) 1, Regal Aura (W Marston, 5-1); 2, Suffolk Road (6-1); 3, Jovial Man (11-8 fav). 8 ran. 6l, 4l. D O'Brien. Tote: £6.80; £1.80, £2.00, £1.10. DF: £21.60. CSF: £27.78. Tricast: £47.61.

3.25 (2m 1f hdle) 1, General Shirley (M Clinton, 11-4 jt-fav); 2, Scalp 'em (25-1); 3, Vanborough Lad (9-1). Tomal 11-4 jt-fav. 10 ran. 5l, 6l. P Hedger. Tote: £3.90; £1.80, £5.80, £1.80. DF: £64.20. Trio: £49.70. CSF: £59.92. Tricast: £509.56.

4.00 (2m ch) 1, Flight Lieutenant (D Bridgwater, 1-4 fav); 2, Robins Pride (7-2); 3, Mheanmetoo (50-1). 5 ran. 4l, 23l. T Casey. Tote: £1.20; £1.00, £1.70. DF: £1.50. CSF: £1.45.

4.30 (3m 1f 110yd ch) 1, Black Church (D O'Sullivan, 2-5 fav); 2, Joker Jack (14-1); 3, Pinoccio (7-1). 4 ran. 4l, dist. R Rowe. Tote: £1.50. DF: £2.50. CSF: £4.54.

5.00 (2m 4f hdle) 1, Kelly Mac (Mr R Thornton, 11-4); 2, Always Greener (2-1 fav); 3, King's Gold (5-1). 8 ran. 2½l, 6l. D O'Brien. Tote: £3.10; £1.20, £1.20, £2.00. DF: £3.20. CSF: £7.76. Tricast: £21.59.

Placepot: £4.00. Quadpot: £2.80.

RUGBY UNION

England's chances bolstered by Catt

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

ENGLAND'S prospects for a successful defence of their Rugby World Cup sevens title took a timely turn for the better in Hong Kong yesterday when Mike Catt, the Bath stand-off half, reported fit after straining a groin in training earlier this week.

Four years ago Andrew Harriman led a comparatively unknown group of England players into three days of freezing weather in Edinburgh, who emerged as winners of the inaugural Melrose Cup competition. Now Harriman is manager of a team that has played in no sevens competitions, enjoyed only three training runs together before departure for the Far East, finds itself in conditions as alien as Murrayfield's cold and rain were to the Fijians and Samoans and which lost Lawrence Dallaglio, its captain, this week.

"Five of the team played in 1993, so it is just a case of bringing the other five into the fold quickly," Harriman said, although this time England, blessed with all-round pace, have nobody who possesses the raw speed that Harriman had himself when on the wing for Harlequins.

Yet England's prospects are brighter than those of the other home unions. Wales, despite the experience of Allan Bateman, have been wrecked by injury and Scotland's youngsters may find themselves outclassed, though in James Craig they do have a genuine finisher. Ireland, so unlucky not to reach the inaugural final (they lost in the semi-final to Australia), have to survive difficult group games against South Africa — who are led by Joost van der Westhuizen — and Argentina.

Should England succeed where no northern-hemisphere team has done since the Barbarians in 1981 and win in Hong Kong, it will be a marvellous achievement. Far more likely, however, is success for Fiji or the well-motivated New Zealanders, despite the absence of Jonah Lomu, through illness, Christian Cullen, through injury and various leading players contracted to their Super 12 teams.

England open against Canada and Zimbabwe today in a 24-team tournament expected to produce a turnover in excess of £6 million, despite complaints over the absence of top players from the leading countries. In that respect, England have not let the tournament down, but the clash with the Super 12 series has removed such players as George Gregan and Matthew Burke from the scene.

Not, however, the irrepressible David Campese, for whom this will be a last fling in Australia's colours; nor the aptly-named Eric Rush, who leads New Zealand into action. Waisale Serevi, the little genius at stand-off half, returns yet again with Fiji.

In the week that China received membership of the International Rugby Football Board, Hong Kong field a team which, for the first time, includes a Chinese player in Chan Fuk-Ping.

Catt's recovery came too late to prevent Will Greenwood from joining the England squad as cover, which has caused the postponement of Leicester's league game against Gloucester tomorrow.

FIRST ROUND POOLS: A: Canada, England, Zimbabwe. B: Australia, Romania, Scotland. C: Japan, New Zealand, Tonga. D: Fiji, Hong Kong, Portugal. E: France, South Korea, United States. F: Cook Islands, Morocco, Spain. G: Argentina, Ireland, South Africa. H: Namibia, Wales, Western Samoa.

John Fisher savour comprehensive win

JOHN FISHER, from Surrey, flew the flag for comprehensive-school rugby union yesterday beating Durham 28-24 in the final of the Open tournament at the Rosslyn Park schools sevens (a Correspondent writes).

Coached by Mike Davies, the former London Welsh flanker, John Fisher were the dark horses of the competition and have not progressed beyond the last 16 before this year. Durham, the North of England sevens champions, were also appearing in the final for the first time but with Jonathan Golightly, last season's England Under-16 stand-off half, and Hall Charlton, the north of England Under-18 scrum half, they started as favourites.

However, it was John Fisher who drew first blood when Carrelle Dixon showed his pace to score. They went further ahead through Shelbourne, the scrum half, before Dixon again showed the Durham defence a clean pair of heels to extend the lead.

Durham, who had knocked out a talented Eltham side in their semi-final, replied with tries from Stanley and Isaacson, but when John Fisher's captain, Pilkington, scored fourth try the contest was effectively over.

A late Durham rally had the crowd on its feet but despite two further tries by the substitute, Brown, and Cavey, the Surrey schoolboys held on for a well-deserved victory.

It was also the final of the inaugural Colts tournament which saw Millfield run out comfortable 34-10 winners over Llanhari, from mid-Glamorgan. Trailing 10-0 in the first half, Millfield staged an overpowering recovery with King scoring two spectacular tries.

RESULTS: Open tournament: Quarter-finals: Campion 22 St Edward's 12; John Fisher 32 Hampton 5; St Joseph's 24 Durham 31; Eltham 31 Glantaf 24. Semi-finals: Campion 0 John Fisher 29; Durham 24 Eltham 12. Final: John Fisher 28 Durham 24. Colts tournament: Quarter-finals: Haberdashers' Aske's 19 Oratory 22; Llanhari 22 Dwr-y-Felin 19; RGS High Wycombe 7 Millfield 38; Birchgrove 12 Bryanston 26. Semi-finals: Llanhari 38 Oratory 5; Millfield 33 Bryanston 10. Final: Llanhari 10 Millfield 34.

Puskas warms up with some shooting practice before calling the tune at Wembley in October 1963

Puskas gallops to new milestone

Brian Glanville salutes one of the world's greatest players, who will be 70 next month

"Football today?" Ferenc Puskas said. "I don't see it. Where is it?" He was standing, in sunshine, on the thick, green turf of Wembley Stadium, where in November 1953, he had done so much to help Hungary thrash England 6-3: the first foreign team to triumph on English soil.

Later, on a television screen, we were shown flickering, Subbuteo images of the remarkable goal he scored when he pulled the ball back with the sole of his boot and Billy Wright, in the timeless words of Geoffrey Green in *The Times*, rushed past him "like a fire engine going to the wrong fire".

The Galloping Major gallops no more; the paunch is extravagant, as it has been for years, but the ultra-Hungarian hairline remains largely undisturbed. As does the urchin grin.

Puskas will be 70 next month. A cake was produced in his honour; he blew out the candles in two puffs. The England team that lost that day — Stanley Matthews, George Robb, who won his only cap that day, and Jackie Sewell, who scored a goal — were present to pay genial homage.

Puskas had a left foot that terrorised defences, ("with a left foot like that, you don't need a right foot," Danny Blanchflower, the Tottenham Hotspur captain, once said) but he never won a World Cup winner's medal. In 1954, when Hungary were red-hot favourites, he was kicked from behind in their opening 8-3 victory over West Germany and did not play again until the final, which they lost to the Germans.

He refused to use this as an excuse. "We lost 3-2; I haven't anything else to say," he said. "We lost a game and that's enough." But was the goal he scored, which would have been the equaliser, wrongly ruled out by Mervyn Griffiths, the Welsh linesman, and Bill Ling, the English referee? "It was a goal," Puskas said, "but the linesman gave offside and the referee agreed."

There were those who thought Puskas should not have played in that game, that he was not fully fit and that his return upset the balance of the team that should have been flourishing without him.

In 1956, finding himself providentially abroad with the Honved club when the Hungarian uprising broke out, he stayed away and eventually struck up a glorious partnership with Alfredo Di Stefano, the Argentina international, at Real Madrid.

In the fabled European Cup final of 1960, against Eintracht Frankfurt, in Glasgow, Puskas scored four goals and Di Stefano three. Two years later, in the final in Amsterdam, against Benfica, who won 5-3, Puskas scored all of Real's goals. The legend goes that at the final whistle, he gave his shirt, symbolically, to his heir to the throne, Eusebio. "I didn't give it to anyone," he insisted.

He has just published a new book, *Puskas on Puskas* (Robson Books, £17.95), in which he speaks of learning football in the streets of Budapest and, indeed, he has remained the eternal Budapest urchin. If one has a special memory of him, it is not of any of those marvellous goals, not even the one he scored in Amsterdam when he ran half the length of the field on to Di Stefano's pass. It is of a night later that year in Santiago.

Chile had finished third in the World Cup and Puskas had played for Spain. The streets throbbed with the celebrations of Chile fans. There, in a doorway, munching monkey nuts, the urchin grin on his face, was . . . Puskas.

He returned to Wembley in May 1971 as manager of Panathinaikos, of Greece, who had reached the European Cup final, but lost 2-0 to Ajax, and later he coached in Vancouver. He showed us that he can still juggle the ball. Left-footed.

UniBond pennant embellishes last eight

Non-League Football
By Walter Gammie

THE biggest representation in the FA Umbro Trophy quarter-finals tomorrow comes not from the Vauxhall Conference but from the UniBond League, which has three clubs (Ashton United, Bishop Auckland and Colwyn Bay) in action, as against only two (Stevenage Borough and Woking) from the competition at the top of the Non-League pyramid.

Bishop Auckland's place in the quarter-finals was confirmed only after the FA dismissed an appeal by Altrincham to have Bishop Auckland's 1-0 win in the third round overturned. Altrincham said that their defeat was caused by the crowd trouble among visiting supporters that brought a 24-minute delay to the match at Moss Lane. Bishop Auckland's home tie against Gloucester City, of the Dr Martens League, is further shadowed by the resignation of Steve Newcombe, the club chairman, citing apathy within the club and its supporters.

Ashton United are the most unlikely quarter-finalists, playing their football in the UniBond first division but finding inspiration under the management of John Coleman, formerly a prolific goalscorer with Morecambe. They travel to play Dagenham and Redbridge, who were relegated from the Conference to the Icis League last season.

Such is their cup record this season that it is perhaps no surprise that Colwyn Bay, who travel to play Stevenage Borough, the Conference champions, should have survived so far. They reached the first round of the FA Cup and have also qualified for the semi-finals of the UniBond League Cup.

In the other match, Heybridge Swifts, of the Icis League, the conquerors of Kidderminster Harriers in the previous round, turn their attentions to Woking. The tie at Scraley Road has been made all ticket, with a 2,500 limit, and Heybridge have borrowed 40 stewards from Colchester United.

EXCLUSIVE TIMES NEWSPAPERS GRAND PRIX COMPETITION

THE TIMES FANTASY FORMULA ONE

£40,000 of prizes to be won

Enter a team today for the Brazilian Grand Prix

HOW THE POINTS WERE SCORED IN MELBOURNE

DRIVERS: Qualifying points (scored by qualifying for the start of each grand prix within the first 20 positions on the grid): Pole J Villeneuve 30 points; 2nd H-H Frentzen 25; 3rd M Schumacher 24; 4th D Coulthard 23; 5th E Irvine 22; 6th M Hakkinen 21; 7th J Herbert 20; 8th J Alesi 19; 9th O Panis 18; 10th G Berger 17; 11th R Barrichello 16; 12th R Schumacher 15; 13th N Larini 14; 14th G Fishichella 13; 15th U Katayama 12; 16th S Nakano 11; 17th J Trulli 10; 18th M Salo 9; 19th J Magnussen 8; 20th D Hill 7. **Finishing points** (scored for the top 20 positions at the end of every grand prix): 1st D Coulthard 60 points; 2nd M Schumacher 50; 3rd M Hakkinen 40; 4th G Berger 30; 5th O Panis 29; 6th N Larini 28; 7th S Nakano 27; 8th H-H Frentzen 26; 9th J Trulli 25; 10th P Diniz 24. (Only 10 finished). **Lap points** (one point for each lap completed): D Coulthard 58 points; M Schumacher 58; M Hakkinen 58; G Berger 58; O Panis 58; N Larini 58; S Nakano 56; H-H Frentzen 55; J Trulli 55; P Diniz 54; R Barrichello 49; M Salo 42; J Magnussen 36; J Alesi 34; U Katayama 32; G Fishichella 14; J Verstappen 2; R Schumacher 1. **Improvement from starting grid to finishing position** (3 points for each improved place): P Diniz 36 points; S Nakano 27; J Trulli 24; N Larini 21; G Berger 18; O Panis 12; M Hakkinen 9; D Coulthard 9; M Schumacher 3. **Fastest lap time of grand prix**: H-H Frentzen 10 points. **Penalty points** Incident resulting in a driver being made to start from back of grid or pit lane (10 points deducted): none. **Elimination during the race** (10 points deducted): J Villeneuve -10 points; E Irvine -10; J Alesi -10; R Barrichello -10; H-H Frentzen -10; J Herber t-10; M Salo -10; J Verstappen -10; U Katayama -10; R Schumacher -10; G Fishichella -10; J Magnussen -10.
Not starting after qualifying (10 points deducted): D Hill -10 points.
Speeding in the pit lane (5 points deducted): none.
CONSTRUCTORS Finishing points (scored for the first car only in the top 20 positions at the end of every grand prix): McLaren 30 points; Ferrari 25; Benetton 23; Prost 22; Sauber 21; Williams 19; Minardi 18; Arrows 17. **Penalty points** Incident resulting in a car being made to start from back of grid or pit lane (10 points deducted): none.
Elimination of a car during the race (10 points deducted): Williams -20 points; Jordan -20; Tyrrell -20; Stewart -20; Ferrari -10; Benetton -10; Sauber -10; Minardi -10.
Not starting after qualifying (10 points deducted): Arrows -10 points.
Speeding in the pit lane (5 points deducted): none.

The first results in our £40,000 Fantasy Formula One competition, the points for the Australian Grand Prix in Melbourne, appear below. And there is still plenty of time to enter a team for the Brazilian Grand Prix — the first of six races which carry up to 600 bonus points for the team managers who can correctly predict any of the first three drivers to cross the finishing line. The top prize of £25,000, in association with the Marlboro World Championship Team, will go to the manager of the team which heads our leaderboard after the final race of the season, the European Grand Prix at Estoril, Portugal, on October 26. There are also two runners-up prizes of £10,000 and £5,000 to be won.

To enter choose six racing drivers [illegible] each of the four groups below [illegible] noon on Thursday, March 27 [illegible] Grand Prix in Interlagos [illegible] post. And, you can use our transfer [illegible] check your position on our [illegible]

J Bell of Kettering, Northants [illegible] for scoring 816 points at the Australian [illegible] I Pigeon, St Saviour, Jersey [illegible] PlayStation and Porsche Challenge [illegible]

MAKE THREE SELECTIONS FROM EACH OF THE FOUR GROUPS BELOW

Figures in light type after the names represent the Fantasy Formular One scores achieved at the Australian Grand Prix [illegible]

DRIVERS

GROUP A				GROUP B			
01 D Hill	-3	07 M Hakkinen	128	13 O Panis	117	19 G Fishichella	17
02 M Schumacher	135	08 D Coulthard	150	14 J Verstappen	-8	20 S Nakano	121
03 J Villeneuve	20	09 R Barrichello	55	15 U Katayama	34	21 N Larini	121
04 E Irvine	12	10 H-H Frentzen	106	16 P Diniz	114	22 J Trulli	[illegible]
05 J Alesi	43	11 J Herbert	10	17 R Rosset	0	23 J Magnussen	34
06 G Berger	123	12 M Salo	41	18 R Schumacher	6	24 V Sospiri	0

CONSTRUCTORS

GROUP C	GROUP D
[illegible]	[illegible]

FANTASY FORMULA ONE 24-HOUR ENTRY LINE: 0891 405 001
+44 990 100 311 outside the UK

0891 calls cost 50p per minute (standard tariffs apply to +44 990 calls). ● For inquiries call 01582 702 720, Mon-Fri, 9am to 5pm

THE PRIZES

JACKPOT
The team manager heading our Fantasy Formula One leaderboard after the European Grand Prix at Estoril, Portugal, on October 26, will win **£25,000.** Prizes of £10,000 and £5,000 will go to two runners-up.

INDIVIDUAL RACE WINNERS
The manager of the team which scores the most points in the Brazilian Grand Prix will win a trip for two to British Grand Prix on July 13.
The runner-up will get a Sony PlayStation with a Formula One and Porsche Challenge game worth £250.

PlayStation

TRANSFERS

If you've already entered a team you can change up to four selections before the Brazilian GP by calling 0891 555 994 (++44 990 100 394 ex UK) before noon on Thursday March 27. Your new team must comprise three selections from each of groups A, B, C and D. The first three selections you make will be deemed to be your prediction for the Brazilian GP bonus points.

CHECK YOUR SCORE

Players can check the scores and positions of their teams by calling the 24-hour checkline 0891 884 648 (Republic of Ireland 0044 990 100 348) and tapping in their 10-digit PIN number. The line currently carries all positions after the Australian Grand Prix and will be updated again on Wednesday April 2 after the Brazilian GP.

TO ENTER BY PHONE

Call our entry hotline on **0891 405 001** (+44 990 100 311 outside the UK). Calls last approximately seven minutes and must be made using a Touch-tone telephone (most telephones with * and # keys are Touch-tone).

Follow the instructions on the entry line and tap in your 12 two-digit selections in turn. The order in which you register your first three drivers will be your predictions for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd finishing places for the grands prix where bonus points apply. You will then be asked to give your Fantasy Formula One team name, together with your own name, address, postcode and daytime telephone number (please note, you need to speak these details). You will receive a 10-digit PIN number as confirmation of your entry. Please keep a record of this with your team details.

You can enter a team at any time until noon on Thursday, March 27, to qualify for the start of the Brazilian Grand Prix.

BY POST/FAX

Complete the form, right, with your 12 two-digit selections. The order in which you register your first three drivers will be your predictions for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd finishing places for the grands prix where bonus points apply. You will receive a 10-digit PIN number to confirm your entry.

Or fax the form with your credit-card details to 01582 452106 (+44 1582 452106 outside the UK).

To qualify for the Brazilian Grand Prix, postal entries must arrive by first post Tuesday March 25, and faxed entries by noon on that day.

THE TIMES FANTASY FORMULA ONE ENTRY FORM

Complete this form with your credit-card details, or enclose a sterling cheque for £2.50 payable to Fantasy Formula One, and post it to: The Times Fantasy Formula One, Abacus House, Dudley Street, Luton LU1 1ZZ. Or fax it on 01582 452106 (+44 1582 452106 outside the UK).
The closing date for receipt of this form to qualify for the Brazilian Grand Prix is first post Tuesday, March 25, 1997, and noon on that day for faxed entries.

GROUPS A AND B DRIVERS
1st ☐☐ 2nd ☐☐ 3rd ☐☐
☐☐ ☐☐ ☐☐
GROUP C AND D CONSTRUCTORS
☐☐ ☐☐ ☐☐
☐☐ ☐☐ ☐☐
Team Name ....
Signature ....
Date ....

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms .... Initials ....
BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE
Surname ....
Address ....
....
Postcode .... Daytime Tel ....
Credit Card Payment Card number: ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐
Expiry date ☐☐ ☐☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa ☐
Name on card ....
Supply address of registered cardholder on a separate sheet of paper if different from that above
Signature ....
TC

هكذا من الاصل

CRICKET

Pigott put in charge of Sussex's rebuilding

By Pat Gibson

TONY PIGOTT, the former Sussex fast bowler who triggered the revolution that led to the committee being driven out by the sheer force of its members' feelings, was given his reward yesterday. He is to be director of cricket and acting chief executive under a completely new management structure.

It is far more than Pigott had envisaged when he launched his campaign to try to change the way the club was run only three weeks ago and far more than he even dreamt about when he was dismissed as a player at the end of the 1993 season.

Not surprisingly, he looked bewildered by the pace of events as he drove away from the Oval after confirming his resignation as the Surrey second team coach, the job that the county had kept open for him while he involved himself in the affairs of his former club for the simple reason that he cared.

What Pigott did not know when he first set about collecting the 50 members' signatures that he needed to force a special meeting, at which he hoped to oust the committee, was that two more powerful figures, Robin Marlar, a former captain and the most trenchant of cricket correspondents, and Jim May, regional corporate director of the Royal Bank of Scotland, were plotting their own coup.

Once the combined weight of Marlar's opinions, May's expertise and Pigott's enthusiasm was brought to bear at a passionate annual meeting in the Grand Hotel, Brighton, it produced a tide of opinion that swept away the old guard.

Within an hour, Marlar, 66, had been installed as chairman — "only for a year," he said, "because I ~~said, I've got~~ a nice wife and she is not too pleased" — and yesterday he began to put the new structure in place with the playing philosophy "keep it simple, give good people responsibility and let them get on with it".

Apart from his cricket writing, Marlar is a headhunter of international repute but he did not have to look far for his first appointment. "That will save us a big fee," he chuckled as he gave Pigott what amounts to full responsibility for running the club, at least until the chief executive's job is sorted out.

That is obviously tied up with the position of the club secretary. Nigel Bett, who has been absent on sick leave since a picture of him appeared in a naturist magazine. "Nothing will be said about his position until he is fit enough to come and see me," Marlar said. "There is still a job as secretary."

Under Pigott will be a director of marketing, a director of finance and the present coaching staff of Desmond Haynes, Chris Waller and Ian Waring. "The main thing," Marlar said, "is to create a culture where all sorts of highly competent people are encouraged to do their own thing."

There will also have to be elections for six more committee members to join the newly installed Marlar, May and Dick Holste, a retired bank manager, but for the moment it is going to be up to Pigott to revitalise a club that had been thrown into turmoil by the departure of six capped players during the winter.

"It is amazing how quickly this has all happened," Pigott said. "When I started it, I just wanted to get on to the committee to try to get things changed. I never imagined that I would finish up in a position such as this but it's all very exciting and I am looking forward to it.

"I've got a very big job on my hands but I believe I can do it. It is a question of everybody getting together. Pulling in the same direction and moving Sussex forward. I am confident that we can do that."

Healy proud to keep his rivals at bay

Australia's ebullient wicketkeeper reveals some of his appealling characteristics to

Jack Bannister

SHAUN BOTTERILL

Stand up and be counted: Healy's commitment to Australia's cause is unquenchable

Pride, pride and even more pride glows from Ian Healy, the Australia wicketkeeper, as he talks about the part he is playing in what is rapidly becoming a high-quality side.

The Queenslander made his first-class debut in 1986-87, and his Test debut arrived after only six Sheffield Shield matches. More remarkable still is his tally of Test and Shield matches since. "I have played in 87 Tests, but still only 33 Shield games," he said.

Asked about the Australian superstition that 87 is the Devil's number, he laughed. "The Port Elizabeth Test was my 87th, and the Wanderers Test was Steve Waugh's 87th. Didn't do us much harm, did it? Steve got 160 and I hit the winning six."

His decisive boundary reflected the ease of mind with which he approached the situation as Jason Gillespie joined him at the wicket with the Australia score having dipped from 258 for five to 265 for eight, still five runs short of the victory target. "I had no worries at all," he said. "I know he [Gillespie] can play straight and I would have taken any run on offer, but that six eased all the pain.

"It was special to me because we've lost the other three tight finishes I've played in — against South Africa by five runs, against Pakistan by one wicket and by one run against the West Indies. This one made up for them all."

Criticised for his excessive appeals when he started in Test cricket, Healy's morality about the modern trend of shouting for everything is stated firmly and with that familiar pride.

"I actually appeal less now than when I started," he said. "It's a matter of personal confidence, because I'm not afraid to tell the bowler that the ball was missing the stumps. When I started, Terry Alderman would come and stand at slip after bowling his over, and he would rocket me if I hadn't joined in."

Does he get upset when he knows that a batsman is out, and the batsman knows he is out, but gets away with it? "No. He might get a few mouthfuls but it is the umpire we've got the beef with. I don't believe anyone should walk for anything so I can take what comes, for and against."

He believes the Australian approach has changed in the past ten years. "I reckon we are now better equipped with aggression and confidence than when I started, and now we have a good side with great spirit."

The return of Shane Warne has no doubt contributed to that feeling of well-being, and no one is better placed than Healy to judge if the demon spinner is back to his best. "He's there and I know because I have kept in 49 of his 50 Tests. I've seen Shane develop from a raw Academy kid into a mature cricketer as well as a brilliant bowler in only a couple of years. It was a big finger operation that he had but his consistency is back, although he gets more impatient now if a wicket doesn't come.

"Not many people realise that in 1993 he bowled more balls in a Test calendar year than anyone in history. He was bowling 40 and 50 overs in England and taking four for 70 by building up pressure on the batsmen. I reckon he soon spotted he couldn't do that for ever, so he doesn't bowl so much and therefore wants his wickets more quickly."

Healy still has good hands, but he blames problems with his contact lenses for the persistent bruising they have suffered since the recent series against the West Indies. "I had some eye irritation, and never found out for a few weeks that I had two chipped lenses.

"The bruising is difficult to shake off taking two bowlers of the pace of Glenn McGrath and Gillespie, who is marginally the quicker."

> 'I don't believe anyone should walk for anything so I can take what comes'

He speaks proudly of his maiden Test hundred at Old Trafford in 1993. "Steve Waugh told me when I was 20 that it would be my day and gave me a lot of the strike, and everything went my way."

His Test record — 299 victims — tells a remarkable tale of achievement, but he is hungry for more. "I'm ahead of everyone except Rod Marsh for strike-rate," he said. "Jeff Dujon and Alan Knott were around the 270 mark off 81 and 95 Tests."

"I couldn't believe I only copped one at St George's [Port Elizabeth] on that pitch, but it [the 300th] will come. And I want to become the first wicketkeeper to play in 100 Tests."

Talk to him about the vice-captaincy, and that glow of pride fills his open countenance. "It is a great honour and a privilege and I love it," he said.

Pride, pride and even more pride.

Taylor's place looks safe despite failings

From Jack Bannister in Centurion

CENTURION Park, the home ground of Northern Transvaal, hosts its second Test match today, the third and final game in the series between South Africa and Australia which the touring team lead 2-0 thanks to the six hit by Ian Healy in Port Elizabeth on Monday.

A win by two wickets is not quite the narrowest possible margin, but the teams were drained, nevertheless, by 3½ days of wildly fluctuating cricket. Now, four days later, they have to start all over again. As the series has also been decided, the players could be forgiven if motivation is lacking. But there are places and pride to play for. Not all of this victorious Australia party are certain to be picked for the coming Ashes tour of England, including the openers, Mark Taylor and Matthew Hayden.

Taylor has received criticism from the media because of his poor form with the bat — his last 18 innings have produced only 307 runs. But he commands the respect and even affection of his players, and his country's authorities know what a magnificent job he has done since he took over as captain from Allan Border. The smart money says that, even if he fails again with the bat, he will come to England.

South Africa have been rocked by the double beating they have suffered, but take some solace from the view that Australia are the best in the world.

With Shaun Pollock out of the match today and doubts about the ability of Brian McMillan to bowl because of a bruised left heel, Brett Schultz, the fast bowler, returns.

Australia have injury worries about Taylor, Steve Waugh, Jason Gillespie and Glenn McGrath, but the first three are expected to play.

South African pride has taken a battering, and whether it can recover against this talented Australian side is one of several aspects of interest in the game — dead series or not.

AUSTRALIA (from): M Taylor (captain), M Hayden, M Elliott, M Waugh, S Waugh, G Blewett, M Bevan, I Healy, S Warne, J Gillespie, G McGrath, P Reiffel

SOUTH AFRICA (from): G Kirsten, A Bacher, B McMillan, D Cullinan, H Cronje (captain), J Kallis, L Klusener, D Richardson, A Donald, B Schultz, P Adams, H Gibbs, P Symcox

SPORTS LETTERS

Time for a European rugby championship

From Mr N. J. D. Baptiste

Sir, While the England rugby union squad can obviously draw encouragement for the future from this season's results, the players will no doubt realise that only the French team provided them with opposition of the quality they will encounter from the southern hemisphere teams between now and the end of the next World Cup.

Gerald Davies (March 17) rightly pointed out that a fault in England's forward play is a constant tendency to ruck and maul instead of maintaining the momentum of the attack by keeping the ball in the hand and going forward or letting the backs have it quickly while the opposition is still in disarray.

He might well have added that the current fashion in the home countries for the backs to line flat in attack, in the style of rugby league, and take the ball almost standing still also creates such a lack of momentum that almost the only way of breaching the opposing line is by dummy runs or miss-moves. The French backs, by contrast, run onto their passes at speed in the traditional way and, as they showed all season, are very dangerous whenever they get the ball as a result.

Now that the internal political problems of English rugby look capable of solution reasonably quickly, it is surely time for the respective unions in the five nations countries to start promoting the game properly in view of the well-financed competition for young players from professional soccer, rugby league and American football.

The first step should be to include Italy in the five nations to transform it into a genuine European championship, especially as their national team is better than the French side when it was first admitted to the competition. If the Italian main ground facilities are still considered not good enough, the other rugby unions should give or loan them the money for improvements.

The next steps in this new professional era could be to have each country play each other on both a home and away basis using both Saturdays and Sundays for internationals if necessary.

Simultaneously a second division should be established for the minor rugby-playing countries such as Spain, Germany, Holland, Russia and Poland.

Yours faithfully,
N. J. D. BAPTISTE,
23 Gladwyn Road,
Putney, SW15.

Word of caution

From Mr Michael Madden

Sir, Much has been said and written about the vigorous, not to say reckless, challenge on Craig Chalmers by Christophe Lamaison in the France v Scotland game last Saturday, to the extent that the Scottish Rugby Union has felt it necessary to cite the French player.

Not a word seems to have been uttered about the incident in the Wales v England match when Gareth Thomas slid feet first into Jon Sleightholme in an attempt to prevent a try, catching the English wing's head with a knee and causing him to leave the field injured.

The Welsh wing should at least have been cautioned for foul play and, as Sleightholme had already been forced into touch at the corner, a penalty awarded to England 15 metres in from touch five metres from the Welsh goalline.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL MADDEN
(Training and Development Officer, Sussex Society of Rugby Football Union Referees),
4 Park Road,
Burgess Hill, West Sussex.

Princely stadium

From Mr D. B. J. Frost

Sir, While sportsmen rejoice at having rugby dignified by its inclusion on your leader page ("Scrum down for history", March 15) your leader-writer should be reminded that, far from the Parc des Princes being "used for internationals only since 1972", France played their very first international match on January 1, 1906 at the Parc des Princes against the All Blacks.

Of course, France moved their international matches to the Stade Colombes after that stadium was built for the 1924 Olympic Games, and they stayed there until 1972 when the Parc des Princes was rebuilt. But their new venue was still the Parc des Princes — just as the recently rebuilt Twickenham is still Twickenham.

I rather think, and hope, that the second rebuilding of Cardiff Arms Park in my lifetime will not alter the name by which that hallowed corner of Cardiff is known. It will always be the Arms Park, just as the "Parc des Princes" has survived since at least 1906.

Yours faithfully,
D. B. J. FROST,
9 Pagoda Avenue,
Richmond,
Surrey.

Against the tide

From Mr Andrew Heywood

Sir, In modern rugby, which is constantly changing its rules to create a faster, more open game, why are international matches brought to a standstill while a player builds a sandcastle on the pitch?

I refer of course to Jonathan Davies's preparations for place kicks last Saturday against England in Cardiff. If players are not prepared to use the plastic tees provided, then they should not be allowed to kick.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW HEYWOOD,
5 Maple Grove,
Ealing, W5.

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5211. They should include a daytime telephone number.

Goalkeepers undo myth

From Mr Ian Kinloch

Sir, One of the enduring myths of football was that England had the best goalkeepers in the world. The overseas competition might be able to boast of outfield players such as Puskas, Pelé or Platini, but, when it came to goalkeeping, Banks, Shilton and Clemence, reared in a footballing culture which did not mollycoddle goalkeepers, stood supreme.

But this myth seems in danger of dying. Looking at the reports of Premiership matches (March 17), we see that Chelsea, Sunderland, Aston Villa, West Ham United, Manchester United and Middlesbrough (the last having tried three "native" goalkeepers this season) all fielded overseas goalkeepers. In fact the total would have been even higher had Kasey Keller been available for Leicester City.

Is the supply of English goalkeepers drying up or is the rest of the world catching up?

Yours faithfully
IAN KINLOCH,
40 Box Lane,
Wrexham,
Clwyd.

Cheltenham limit

From Mr C. K. Simpson

Sir, I agree with Jack Waterman (Racing Commentary, March 17) that there should be a limit to the attendance at the Cheltenham Festival. Have they not learnt a thing from the Hillsborough disaster. I was in the Courage ring on Gold Cup day and all the bars were absolutely chock-full: there is no pleasure in being in an overcrowded place. Everywhere, including the toilets, had queues, and getting out after the last race was even worse as the whole crowd came into a bottleneck, with no supervision. Before it is too late, Cheltenham should get safety minded.

Yours faithfully,
C. K. SIMPSON,
128 Old Town Lane,
Pelsall,
West Midlands.

Sheehan on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

The slam hand in this Refresher occurred in a Hubert Phillips match (the national mixed teams championship).

Dealer South Game All Aggregate scoring

♠AQ92
♥AK863
♦KJ64
♣-

♠J10874
♥QJ10974
♦-
♣74

N
W E
S

♠53
♥2
♦10752
♣AQ9853

♠K6
♥5
♦AQ983
♣KJ1062

S	W	N	E
1D	Pass	1H	Pass
2C	Pass	2S	Pass
3C	Pass	4D	Pass
4NT	Pass	5C	Dble
6D	All Pass		

Contract: Six Diamonds. Lead: queen of hearts

I was playing with Sally Brock. My Two Spades was 'fourth-suit forcing', asking Sally to describe her hand further. Her Three Clubs showed she had at least five clubs, and therefore at least five diamonds. At that point I had enough playing strength to bid Six Diamonds, but to investigate a possible grand slam I jumped to Four Diamonds; that showed slam interest with a good diamond fit.

I think Sally should have made a cue-bid of Four Spades at this point, but she decided to use Roman Key-Card Blackwood; my Five Club response showed 0 or 3 'aces', the king of diamonds counting as an ace. The grand slam is quite a good contract but doomed as the cards lie.

Sally won the heart lead in dummy and, intending to cash some major-suit winners before embarking on a cross-ruff, cashed the king of hearts. East and declarer both discarded spades. Sally now played a spade to the king and a trump. When West showed out she could no longer make her contract — try it if you like but there is nothing that works.

Sally was quick to point out her error. Once she has made three major-suit winners she knows she can make nine more on a complete cross-ruff, because she knows West has the heart length and East the clubs (note his foolish double of Five Clubs), so neither of them will be able to overruff.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

CHERIMOYA
a. Wassailing
b. A finial
c. A Peruvian fruit

CHITTARONE
a. A pig's intestines
b. Rigmarole
c. A lute-like instrument

CHITTERLING
a. Magpie's converse
b. A pork dish
c. A form of stamp perforation

CHOCHO
a. A tropical cucumber
b. A small dog
c. Unsatisfied

Answers on page 46

Keene on CHESS

By Raymond Keene
Chess Correspondent

Members' maestro

I have mentioned before in this column the extraordinary exploits of Marmaduke Wyvill MP. Without a doubt, Wyvill was the strongest player ever to sit in the House of Commons. Representing Richmond in Yorkshire for many years, he still found the time to develop his chess strengths to remarkable levels.

Stylistically, Wyvill was a disciple of Howard Staunton. He liked fianchetto, or flank, developments of his bishops, often chose to defend with the Sicilian against White's king pawn opening and had a fine strategic awareness of the power of a mobile pawn centre.

Wyvill's main achievement was to take second prize at the first ever international tournament held at London, in 1851, to coincide with the Great Exhibition. In so doing, he outdistanced established masters of the day such as Staunton and Williams. Wyvill succumbed only to Adolf Anderssen in the final. Since Anderssen was very much the unofficial world champion of his day this was a truly outstanding feat on Wyvill's part. Even though he lost the match against Anderssen in the final, Wyvill scored a couple of elegant victories. The following is a good example.

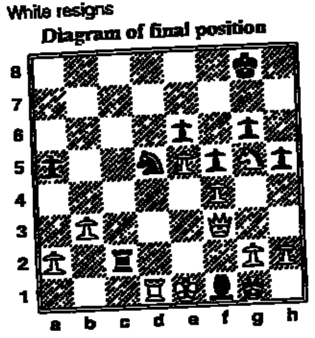
White: Adolf Anderssen
Black: Marmaduke Wyvill
London 1851

Sicilian Defence

1	e4	c5
2	d4	cxd4
3	Nf3	Nc6
4	Nxd4	e6
5	Be3	Nf6
6	Bd3	Be7
7	0-0	0-0
8	Nd2	d5
9	Nxc6	bxc6
10	e5	Nd7
11	f4	f5
12	Rf3	c5
13	Rh3	Rf7
14	b3	g6
15	Nf3	Nb6
16	Bf2	d4
17	Bh4	Nd5
18	Qd2	a5
19	Bxe7	Rxe7
20	Ng5	Ne3
21	Qf2	Bb7
22	Bf1	Ng4
23	Qh4	Qd7
24	Rd1	Rc8
25	Be2	h5
26	Rg3	Qe8
27	Rd2	Rg7
28	c3	Ne3
29	cxd4	cxd4
30	Rxd4	Rc1+
31	Kf2	Nd5
32	Rgd3	Qc6
33	Rd2	Qb6
34	Bc4	Rc2
35	Ke1	Rxd2
36	Rxd2	Qg1+
37	Bf1	Rc7
38	Rd1	Rc2
39	Qg3	Ba6
40	Qf3	Bxd1

White resigns

Diagram of final position



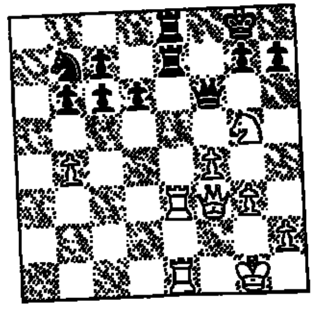
Times book

The Times Winning Moves 2 contains 240 chess puzzles from international grandmaster Raymond Keene's daily column in *The Times*, and is available now from bookshops or from B. T. Batsford Ltd (tel: 01376 321276 at £6.99 plus postage and packing).

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene



White to play. This position is from the game Gutop — Kuindzi, USSR 1977. How did White resolve the tension on the e-file in his favour with a fine attacking flourish?

Solution on page 46

GOLF

Baker plays joker in wild-card selection debate

FROM MEL WEBB IN GRAN CANARIA

AS AN exercise in perching steadfastly on the fence it was a classic. Peter Baker, once a Ryder Cup hero, decided yesterday that there were very good reasons to change the rules on Ryder Cup selection. The only thing was, he did not think it was right to change the rules. Confused? Join the club.

The personable Baker, who won three points in a losing cause in the 1993 match at The Belfry, had a 67 yesterday, six under par, *to finish* the first round of the Turespaña Masters a shot off the lead, alongside four other players. He then embarked on his theories about how many wild-card selections Severiano Ballesteros, the Ryder Cup captain, should have for this year's match.

"I think three picks [not two] would be satisfactory, it would definitely be helpful," he said. "We all want to have the best team and we all want to keep the cup." So far, so good, and everything would have been perfectly clear had he stopped there.

No such luck, for Baker had more to say. "The trouble is, in any sport, it's very difficult to change the rules when you're halfway through the game. I can't think of any other sport it could happen in."

He even went further. "Actually, I think it would be better to have four picks," he said. This was becoming complicated. "And I think we should play for places from January to September; then we would be sure of having the in-form players in the team. If guys can't give up six months to try to qualify for the team, *you have to wonder if* they want to get in."

So which way would Baker be voting when he received the ballot form that is being sent to European members of the PGA European Tour to give them the chance to vote on the issue? "I honestly don't know," he said, leaving nobody with the impression that he had made up his mind. Was he being indecisive? "I'm not sure." End of conversation.

Baker had been a good deal more positive on the golf course. He included three 15-foot putts in a round of seven birdies and only one dropped shot. That came at the 7th, his 16th, and was the only occasion when one of five poor drives betrayed him.

Baker is 35th in the Ryder *Cup points list at present, but* has his eyes firmly set on a place in the team to play the United States at Valderrama. *If he stays put he is unlikely to* be picked, even if Ballesteros is allowed to select all 12 players, so he has to earn his way in. If he votes for three picks, it would be just his luck if he finished tenth in the list.

Adam Hunter, level with Baker, José Rivero, José Coceres and Mats Hallberg, but a shot behind Brian Davis, *putted brilliantly to birdie the* first five holes, including one from 45 feet and two from 20 feet. Another birdie at the 7th took him to the turn in 30, a career best.

He had had trouble with his driver all the way round, and discovered why he had been a little crooked off the tee when his head dropped off on the 18th — the club's, that is, not the one that sits on his shoulders. He was last seen seeking a tube of Araldite.

José María Olazábal had a wildly inconsistent 70. He started at the 10th and reached the 18th one under par with two bogeys and a birdie, then played eight holes without a par — a sequence that went birdie, birdie, birdie, bogey, birdie, birdie, double bogey, birdie. There is more than one way to finish three under par, and Olazabal went the scenic route.

He was still bemused by it all when he mooched away from the recorder's tent. "I just don't feel comfortable over the ball," he said. "I need to be *more steady.*" *He could* say that again.

FIRST ROUND

EARLY LEADING SCORES (GB & Ireland unless stated): 66: B Davis. 67: P Baker, M Hallberg (Swe), J Rivero (Sp), J Coceres (Arg), A Hunter. 68: K Tomori (Japan), P Mitchell, N Briggs. 69: S Henderson, A Beal, R Goosen (SA), J Lomas, J-M Canizares (Sp), P Broadhurst, M-A Jimenez (Sp), M Davis, D Lee, M Jonzon (Swe). 70: D Westermark (Swe), S Allan (Aus), D Smyth, R Lee, D Cole (Aus), D Gilford, J Payne, P Sjoland (Swe), J Haeggman (Swe), M Campbell (NZ), D Borrego (Sp), D Clarke, J-M Olazábal (Sp), A Cejka (Ger), B Tinning (Den), F Valera (Sp), I Garrido (Sp), E Romero (Arg), F Tarnaud (Fr), J Van de Velde (Fr). 71: D Chopra (Swe), D Hospital (Sp), R Russell, A Sandywell, A Coltart, M Mouland, P Golding, R Boxall, J Sandelin (Swe), M-A Martin (Sp), A Forsbrand (Swe), G Evans, C O'Connor Jr, F Cea (Spa), A Tait.

Birdie putt smoothes path for Robinson

JEREMY ROBINSON, a former *European Tour player,* had an extra reason to enjoy the 30ft birdie putt that took *him and David Jones into the last four of the Sunningdale* foursomes yesterday.

Robinson had been upset by an incident at the 5th hole in the quarter-final with Mark Palmer and Gary Walmsley. Jones was in a bunker but *before he played the shot, his* teenaged caddie went to fetch the rake and in doing so smoothed out the sand.

Robinson then heard *his* opponents discussing whether they could claim the hole and, incensed by what he considered to be unsportsmanlike conduct, told them they could have it.

It was only after the match had ended with his dramatic putt on the 18th green that *Robinson* discovered that because the caddie had acted without the authority of his player, and was not improving the lie, he was entitled to smooth the sand.

FOURTH ROUND: G Smith (Camberley Heath) and W Riley (Aus) bt D Griffiths (West Herts) and A Frayne (St Mellion) 6 and 4; A Reynolds (Royal Cinque Ports) and A Hall (Sand Martins) bt S Gallagher (Trentham Park) and R Fisher (Newcastle-under-Lyme) at 19th; M Palmer (Mill Ride) and G Walmsley (Duke's Drive) bt C Defoy *and W Defoy (Coombe Hill) 2 and 1;* J Robinson (The Vale) and D Jones (Three Rivers) bt S Murray (Chartham Park) and C Ledger (Hassocks) 4 and 3; J Kemp and M Wilcox (John O'Gaunt) bt S Vale (Whittington) and P Smith (Harefield) 3 and 2; P Sherman (Ashford) and P Page (Dartford) bt I Reay (Bury) and D Mackinnon (Fleetwood) 3 and 2, J Hall (Ladybank) and H Wadsworth (WPGET) bt M James (Banstead Downs) and C Rodgers (Royal Mid-*Surrey) 3 and 2; S Whiffin and J Jones* (Enfield) bt R Ellis and M Naylor (Radcliffe on Trent) at 21st. Quarter-finals: Smith and Riley bt Reynolds and Hall 3 and 2; Robinson and Jones bt Palmer and Walmsley 1 hole; Kemp and Wilcox bt Sherman and Page 2 and 1; Hall and Wadsworth bt Whiffin and Jones at 20th.

CALVIN KNIGHT

Palmer chips to the green yesterday during his first competitive round after surgery

Faldo regains master's touch in final flourish

FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT IN ORLANDO, FLORIDA

NICK FALDO produced one of the most spectacular recoveries in his 20 years as a tournament professional to protect *his position* in the opening round of the Bay Hill invitational tournament here yesterday.

After three-putting the 17th green, Faldo trudged dejectedly to the last tee and was horrified when *he blocked his* drive into heavy rough to set up a treacherous approach shot 200 yards over water and on to a narrow green.

Faldo was delighted to post a one-under-par 71 after a superb six-iron *cleared the* hazard, hit the putting surface and the severe contours of the green fed the ball to within 15 feet of the hole before he coaxed home the putt for a birdie three.

"The result was a bit special," Faldo, who trailed the early leader Paul Stankowski, of the United States, by four *strokes,* said. "It was a dangerous shot and it's always nice when you pull it off. It gets even better when you hole the putt."

The Masters champion was less ecstatic about the rest of his game, though. He was seen to be closing the club face at the top of his backswing on several occasions and it cost him his customary accuracy.

"I have had problems with my take-away throughout my career and I pulled a few shots *out there. So it's back to the* practice range to try to sort it out," Faldo said.

Faldo also had problems *with the* shortest club in his bag, often leaving his putts short of the target — an affliction that caused him to squander his best chance of winning the US Open in 1988. He said: "I left three of them short *right in the jaws* of the hole and that doesn't win tournaments. I didn't hit the putts hard enough all day."

He is a grinder, though, and began his round by recording seven successive *pars,* getting up and down from bunkers at the first two holes, before collecting his first birdie at the 8th after hitting a fine three-iron to within four feet of the pin. He pulled his next drive into the rough, *though,* and then found a bunker before leaving a six-foot putt short of the target.

Faldo was so disgusted that after holing out, he kicked his ball back into the sand trap. He made birdie at the next hole from 12 feet before his grandstand finish made all well with the world again. A 71 *on Arnold Palmer's* course is quite respectable and the 67-year-old was given a hero's welcome back to competitive golf after *undergoing prostate* surgery eight weeks ago.

It had all the trappings of a fairy-tale comeback when Palmer matched par at the first six holes, but he ruined the script by dropping six *shots* at the next three and already looks unlikely to be in action at the weekend.

Nicholas off to the healthiest of starts

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES
IN PHOENIX, ARIZONA

IN THE desert, not even mad dogs go out in the midday sun, but golfers are not paid to lie low and Laura Davies, the Englishwoman who is attempting to win the Standard Register Ping tournament at *Moon Valley for the fourth* year in a row, was scheduled to begin her defence at high noon yesterday.

Earlier in the day, on a soft desert morning, several of Davies's compatriots made encouraging starts. Alison Nicholas, despite the sort of stomach upset that is traditional for England cricketers *touring the sub-continent, had* birdies at her first two holes. She started with a four at the 10th, a par-five of 530 yards, and followed that with a two at the 165-yard 11th, to be two shots behind Robin Walton, the early leader.

Walton, another who played the second nine first, has missed four cuts in her past five outings, but went out in 33, *four under par. A redhead* with green eyes, she was born in Boise, Idaho, but perhaps she owes the change in her luck in St Patrick's week to her Irish colouring.

Joanne Morley, the rookie Englishwoman from Cheshire, has experienced highs and lows since joining the US LPGA Tour, finishing fifth in *her first tournament but missing* the cut twice, too. Yesterday, looking relaxed and composed in a shirt of airforce blue, she sank a testing four-foot putt for *her par at the 1st* and holed from three feet for a birdie two at the 2nd.

Judging her distances well, Morley, who won her first tournament in Europe last season, had another birdie *chance at the long 4th,* but left her putt short, dead on line. She then missed the green by about two inches at the 5th, a treacherous par-three of 130 yards, over water. A delicate chip shaved the hole and a par-saving putt of two feet was dispatched without alarms.

That was a more difficult feat than it might sound, for *Mary Beth Zimmerman,* one of Morley's playing partners, had just missed from three feet, tamping down some offending bit of grass afterwards *in an attempt to disguise the* fact that her stroke had been mediocre and lacking in conviction.

Zimmerman, who started with a double-bogey six after being plugged in a bunker, *has the look of one who* expects the worst and has not often been disappointed. A photographer snapping the group *said that* it was rumoured that she had not smiled for three years and, even after a good shot, she looks like someone who has sworn allegiance to a sect that has taken a vow of misery. She *has won four times — including* this event in 1986 — but does not look as though she expects much this week.

On a more cheerful note, *Helen Dobson, from Lincoln*shire, who has had her troubles in recent years, losing her game in a mass of technicalities, was one under par after seven holes. Now under the coaching wing of Lawrence Farmer, the professional at Moor Park, Dobson is beginning to look more like the player who took the amateur *world by storm in 1989. She* fiddles less and her scores are beginning to be less erratic, although the knack of making cuts is returning only gradually. Dobson has made two out of five this season, an indication *that even* the best can struggle.

SNOOKER

O'Sullivan reaches last four

FROM PHIL YATES IN CO KILDARE

RONNIE O'SULLIVAN, who pinpoints his involvement in the invitation Benson and Hedges Irish Masters as a high priority assignment, became the first player through to the semi-finals of the event at Goffs here yesterday.

O'Sullivan, 21, who is attempting to capture his third title of the season, after prevailing at the Asian Classic and German Open, advanced *with a 6-4 victory over John* Higgins after a high quality encounter.

With strong family connections in the Cork area, O'Sullivan, also 21, is extremely popular in these parts and he even toyed with the idea of playing for Ireland in the World Cup four months ago before eventually electing to represent England.

"I always get a really warm welcome here and it is half the battle when the crowd are on your side," O'Sullivan said after a match that turned out to be a microcosm of his recent form — unstoppable at times, wholly ineffective at others.

Laying the foundation for success, O'Sullivan swiftly and stylishly established a 4-1 lead with breaks of 42, 40, 101, 121 and 69 while Higgins, *edged by him* at the corresponding stage of the world championship last year, struggled from the outset.

Yet, as he showed when beating Nigel Bond 6-5 in the previous round on Tuesday, O'Sullivan is susceptible to spells in which he can do little right. In the next three frames, he aggregated only five points as Higgins levelled at 4-4.

Higgins, the winner of the European Open in Malta three weeks ago, also enjoyed a 28-17 advantage in the ninth frame; then O'Sullivan sparked back to life by stroking in a red from distance to launch a decisive break of 52 for 5-4.

Runs of 45 and 35 then enabled O'Sullivan to comfortably win the tenth and thereby get the better of Higgins for the sixth time in 11 career meetings.

He will now play Stephen Hendry or Jimmy White for a place in the final on Sunday.

Despite the quality of his potential opposition, O'Sullivan was in confident mood. "I get frustrated with myself at times, but I always know that, if I do hit top form, I'll win the event," he said. "I am *not worried about anyone* but myself."

BOWLS

Hankin leads calm England to victory

TO THE bitter disappointment of the home supporters, England won the women's home international series for the third year running in Perth yesterday, when they exhibited greater composure under pressure than the more excitable Scots, and won the deciding *encounter, 127-108* (David Rhys Jones writes).

Doreen Hankin, from Egham, led the English charge, piling up the shots against Falkirk's Roberta Hutchison on one end rink. Sharon Rickman, Di Gray and Julie Thomas all played their parts, as Hankin returned a 30-14 scorecard.

Thornaby's Norma Shaw, who has won the English indoor singles title seven times, skipped her team to a 24-15 *win on the other end* rink, and was responsible for a vital count of six towards the end, which put paid to hopes of a *late* Scottish recovery.

Beryl Alderson skipped her rink to a 22-12 win over Jeanette Conlan and, although the other three English rinks lost, they kept their defeat within bounds.

The Scotland selectors, who had been criticised for leaving out some of their leading players, had been hoping that a victory on home soil would vindicate them, but, at the end of the day, they missed the flair and experience that former world indoor singles champions such as Joyce Lindores and Jan Woodley could have supplied.

Earlier, a depleted Wales side that had failed to trouble England, and Scotland beat Ireland *on four rinks and by* 135 shots to 94.

ROWING

Leander take the leading role

BY MIKE ROSEWELL, ROWING CORRESPONDENT

STEVE REDGRAVE and Matthew Pinsent will be in the Leander first crew that will defend its title in the 71st Head of the River on Saturday. Their crew-mates will include Bobby Thatcher and James Cracknell, Britain's double scullers in the Olympic *Games last year, and Ben* Hunt-Davis and Richard Hamilton from the Atlanta eight. The steersman will be Garry Herbert, the gold medal coxwain for the Searle brothers at the Barcelona Games, who also steered the British eight in Atlanta.

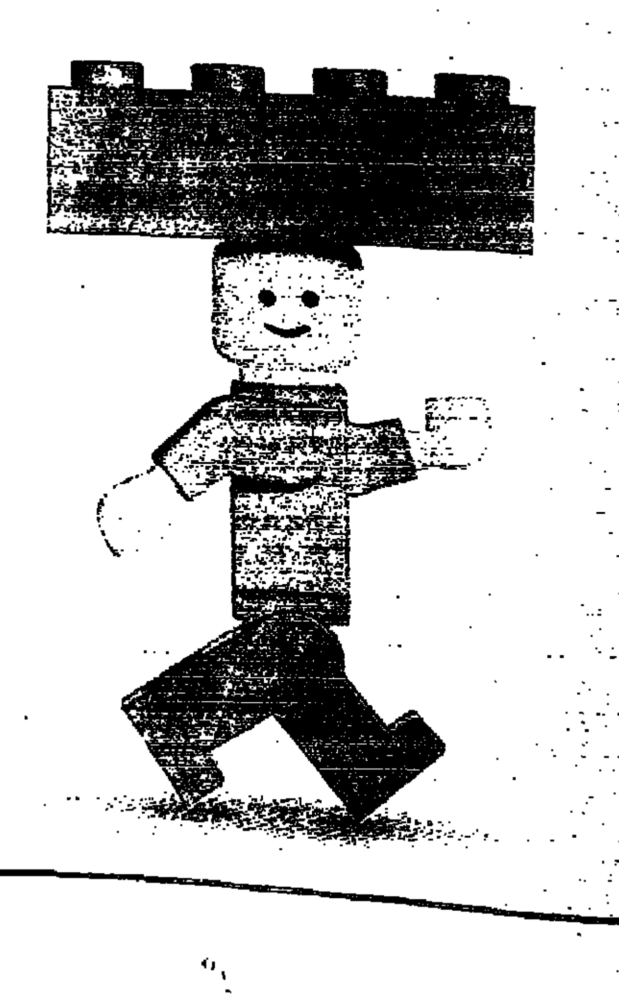
Leander, leading off the 420 crews, will be chased away by London University, *who won* the Kingston Head last week and have Rupert Obholzer, a bronze medal-winner in the *coxless four in Atlanta,* on board. Molesey, starting third, will be without the Searle brothers, who teamed up with Obholzer *in* Atlanta. Jonny is having a break and Greg is concentrating on sculling. The Molesey crew have been reshuffled and have gathered pace since their outing at the Reading Head.

Hunt-Davis will be rushing to Henley after the Head as he is also the coach to the Oxford women's Boat Race crew, who are trying to break a run of Cambridge success that stretches back to 1992. He has overseen a low-profile *build-*up while Cambridge have, as usual, competed regularly in open events. The Cambridge *crew includes their* president, Sarah Winckless, who has six-and-a-half Blues to her credit in various sports.

There was talk of buoying the Henley course for the Sunday race to avoid the steering problems of recent years, *but* Hunt-Davis opposed the idea, perhaps because his president, and coxswain, is *Abbie Chapman,* the cox of the Oxford men in 1995 and the women last year.

CAMBRIDGE: Bow: E Grabham (Queen *Elizabeth HS and St John's*); 2, L Hansen (Cavendish Road HS and Jesus); 3, G Watts (St Francis College and St John's); 4, E Wilkinson (Mullion and Helston School and Homerton); 5, B Metrewell (Westminster, Cheltenham Ladies College and Pembroke); 6, C Zino (Wycombe Abbey and Magdalene). 7, S Winckless (Millfield, Tiffin Girls School and Fitzwilliam). Stroke: K Astley (Stratford Girls Grammar School and Queens'); Cox: M Rogers (University College School & Emmanuel).

OXFORD: Bow: S Cornick (Lady Eleanor Holles and St Peter's); 2, L Sanford (Framingham Earl HS and Jesus); 3, L Williams (Westminster School and Merton); 4, *H Zawadzki* (Larkmead Comprehensive, Abingdon and Queen's); 5, E Lloyd (Lady Eleanor Holles and St Catherine's); 6, L Baker (Lady Eleanor Holles and St Anne's); 7, C Green (Farnborough Hill and Pembroke); Stroke: H Casey (Colchester Sixth Form College and Worcester); Cox: A Chapman (Lady Eleanor Holles and St Hilda's).



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Slick Seville leaves US on starting blocks

David Powell on a crisis that put world championships out of American reach

Athletics in the United States is in a mess although, unlike in Britain, the mess is covered with a golden quilt. Its finances are parlous, its top executive is leaving, it has been losing sponsors and the number of meetings is falling. If this sounds like the latest report on the state of affairs at the British Athletic Federation (BAF) it is no different at USA Track and Field (USATF).

The obvious contrast is the gold-medal count from the past Olympic Games and world championships combined: US 25, Britain 1. But how much longer before the American quilt changes colour? The decision here yesterday by the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) to award the 1999 world championships to Seville, and not to Stamford, did nothing to protect it.

Seville will be the seventh world championships and still the most successful track-and-field nation on earth has yet to host them. "This will be the focal point for the revitalisation of American track and field." Nick Petredis, of the Stamford bid, said yesterday, before the verdict. Afterwards he reflected that the lack of "aggressive leadership" had been significant in Stamford's failure to secure the financial guarantees that Seville had put forward.

The logical next question might be: why, if US athletics was unable to build from the platform of two Olympic Games in the past 13 years, might it have done so from one world championships? Petredis has the answer. "That is the reason Ollan Cassell lost the vote," Petredis said, referring to the decision of the USATF board in December not to renew his contract as executive director.

During Cassell's 31 years in office, US athletics has failed spectacularly to market itself. Cassell's failure to get on with Primo Nebiolo, the IAAF president, only made things worse. "I see more beach volleyball on television than I do track meets," Petredis said. Athletics is not among the top 20 sports on American television and Casell must shoulder the blame. As one insider said: "Cassell's departure should free USATF like East German sports after the fall of the Berlin Wall." Stamford is likely now to challenge London as host for the 2001 world championships and, under new leadership, will hope to succeed.

Cassell is understood to have rejected close to $500,000 (about £312,000) to leave before the vote to oust him, but efforts are being redoubled to pay him off before his contract is up next March.

A forecast budget deficit for USATF this year of $2 million has led to cutbacks and the recent world indoor championships in Paris underlined deeper troubles. Such is media interest that Mary Slaney did not merit a story in the *Los Angeles Times* for her silver medal yet she is 38, from southern California and made world headlines in LA for her tangle of legs with Zola Budd at the 1984 Olympics. Such is the decline in track scholarships and university teams that there is no sign of the emergence of a young sprinter worthy of borrowing Michael Johnson's blocks. No athlete from the US reached the 60 metres men's final in Paris. This from a country that has dominated world sprinting. The earning potential in American football, baseball and basketball has left athletics like the garage beneath the high-rise apartments.

The deterioration in US athletics is expected to show in the medal count in Seville. An $8 million guarantee from the Andalucian authorities showed that what Spain lacks in medal-winners, it makes up for in political and commercial leadership.

TENNIS

Henman's rise wins award from his peers

FROM ALIX RAMSAY IN KEY BISCAYNE, FLORIDA

IT IS the calm before the storm — literally as it happens. With the distinct threat of rain on the way, the Lipton championships eased into some semblance of life yesterday as the first round, devoid of any seeds, hit the courts. The main contenders, including Tim Henman, were still recovering from the annual Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) awards jamboree the night before, where the best of the best were honoured by their own.

For Henman, it was an eventful evening, winning the most improved player of the year award, as voted by the other players on the ATP Tour. After the efforts of last year, in which he took his ranking from No 99 to No 29 in the world and made more than a few headlines along the way, he won the award ahead of Alex O'Brien, of the United States, and Felix Mantilla, from Spain.

Henman was in good company — former winners of the award include Pete Sampras, Michael Chang and Andre Agassi. Sampras collected the award for the player of the year for the fourth time in succession. Following in such exalted footsteps, it leaves Henman with much to live up to. It was the first time any British player had ever been mentioned in dispatches at the annual ceremony.

The equivalent award presented by the Women's Tennis Association for the most improved female player was won hands down by Martina Hingis. With one grand-slam title already in the bag and waiting, not necessarily patiently, in the wings to take over the No 1 ranking in ten days' time, there was really no contest.

If Hingis is ready to take on Steffi Graf's mantle at the top of the heap, however, she has yet to snatch the title of player of the year from the German. Like Sampras, Graf took that honour for the fourth year running. She was also a little startled to discover she had been voted the most exciting player of the year, by tennis supporters, claiming she had always thought she was about as exciting as Todd Martin. The results of the voting may not have been much of a surprise, but the jokes were a new departure.

After such a night of success, it would appear that British tennis is ready to stand up and be noticed at last, but just when all appears to be well with the world, the Davis Cup looms large on the horizon.

In theory, Britain is one match away from a chance to qualify for the world group, but with Henman still to see if he can recapture the form he showed in January — and whether he has recovered from an elbow injury — and Greg Rusedski struggling with a wrist injury, suddenly the tie with Zimbabwe, at Crystal Palace in a fortnight's time, looks more daunting. Since he was forced to pull out of the San José final against Sampras last month, Rusedski has only managed to complete two matches, pulling out of the St Petersburg tournament three days ago.

Meanwhile, Byron Black, who will lead the Zimbabwe attack next month, eased into the second round here with a 6-2, 6-3 win over Andrea Gaudenzi, who helped Italy to a semi-final appointment with France in the Davis Cup last year. Suddenly, the plan of David Lloyd, the Britain coach, to put Britain back in the top division within three years is not looking so straightforward after all.

ALLSPORT

Ormond, aiming to reclaim his British team place, shows fine balance as he races to the national slalom title

Absence helps Ormond's challenge

FROM SIMON WILDE IN TIGNES

JAMES ORMOND, who was dropped from the British ski team last year for under-achieving, won the slalom title at the British national championships here yesterday by more than 2½sec. As he also leads the combined event at the halfway stage, he has enhanced his prospects of a recall when the selectors meet next month to choose the team for next season, when the Winter Olympics will be staged in Nagano, Japan.

"I proved I am capable of doing well," Ormond said. "It is clear that there is nobody ahead of me in the slalom, though Alain Baxter is close. Britain's best skiers have traditionally been downhillers so it is important to show that we can also be good technically."

Ormond, 23, responded to his unexpected de-selection by giving up skiing for three months and going to Australia. The break, everyone now agrees, did him the world of good and he returned to competition in North America more focused. He began to train with the Andorran team — his family is based in France — and set himself to qualify for the world championships in Sestriere last month.

That he duly did and, with the British coaches helping him to prepare, he finished 25th in the slalom. He rejoined the Andorrans and came to Tignes with the express purpose of regaining his place in the team. "My aim is to ski for Britain in the Olympics," he said.

With a large foreign contingent also taking part in the races, Ormond had to settle for fifth place overall. Baxter was going well in the first leg yesterday when he straddled a gate near the finish and was disqualified.

Ormond leads the combined standings after finishing sixth in the downhill on Tuesday, his first downhill of the season. That race was won by Andrew Freshwater, who finished only ninth-fastest of the Britons yesterday but is confident of overtaking Ormond in the giant slalom and super giant.

Emma Carrick-Anderson won the women's slalom with ease, confirming her reputation as technically the best of the women. Having done so well in the world championships, though, she was disappointed not to beat the best of the non-British entries, Celine Dole, of France, who was faster by 0.51sec. Sophie Ormond, James's younger sister, was second.

RESULTS: Men's slalom: 1, J Ormond, 1min 33 30sec; 2, S Langmuir, 1:35 93; 3, J Moulder-Brown, 1:35.99. Women's slalom: 1, E Carrick-Anderson, 1:18.89; 2, S Ormond, 1.19.09; 3, S Robertson, 1:19 15.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Warrington youngsters have chance to impress

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

WARRINGTON are gambling heavily on youth for their Stones Super League match at home to London Broncos tonight, with the inclusion of two newcomers, aged 16 and 17. The decision follows a clear-out of ten players, including three internationals, in response to their feeble display away to Bradford in their opening match, last Friday.

John Duffy, who cannot sign professional terms until his 17th birthday, in July, is the youngest player to make his debut for Warrington since Laurie Gilfedder, who went on to represent Great Britain five times, 40 years ago. Duffy takes over at scrum half from Willie Swann after only a handful of appearances for the reserves.

Duffy, who signed from the Wigan St Patrick's amateur club last season, was a surprise inclusion last night. Carl Roden, 17, was expected to make his senior debut at scrum half, but will now play at hooker, with Paul Hulme switched to the back row in place of Paul Sculthorpe, who failed a fitness test on a calf injury.

If cutting out the so-called dead wood fails to elicit, at the very least, a more effective performance, it is difficult to see quite where Warrington can go. They are away to Sheffield and at home to Wigan in four days over Easter.

John Dorahy knows, too, that pressure is mounting on him as coach after the 58-20 defeat by Bradford and upset by Salford in the Challenge Cup the week before. "It's how we respond that is important," he said. "Situations like this make men of people and I have faith in my players. They have all had a kick up the backside and now we have to fight hard to put things right."

In the bizarre goings-on at Warrington, Iestyn Harris, the £1.35 million-rated Wales and Britain back, is again *persona non grata* at the club. A 48-hour suspension was extended indefinitely, while a report that Harris played in a football match after withdrawing injured from the game against Bradford is investigated.

If the gamble on youth pays off, Warrington would have good reason to celebrate. Were it not for an uncharacteristic blunder by Martin Offiah, an otherwise impressive London might have beaten St Helens last Sunday. David Krause starts at centre and Greg Barwick is switched to full back in place of Tony Martin.

Offiah's unnecessary pass deep in his own half gifted St Helens a try and betrayed signs of too much rugby union. He will need to keep his wits about him over the next 36 hours. He is flying to Wilderspool in one of Richard Branson's helicopters after collecting his MBE insignia at Buckingham Palace. He is then due in a Bedford union shirt at Rotherham tomorrow afternoon.

IN BRIEF

Alleyne takes on role of captain

MARK ALLEYNE was yesterday appointed captain of Gloucestershire after talks between the county and Jack Russell, the England wicketkeeper, broke down. Alleyne takes over from Courtney Walsh, the West Indies fast bowler, who has Test commitments until the middle of the summer.

Gloucestershire's management met Russell over two days before reaching a stalemate last night. Philip August, the cricket secretary, said: "Jack wanted certain conditions. These included a management role for three years and to be captain for three years.

"We were happy with the management condition but our constitution says that we can only appoint a captain for one season at a time. We told Jack but he wanted all the conditions met, which we could not do." Now Alleyne, 28, an all-rounder, has his chance to get Gloucestershire back on track after a miserable 1996.

Draw for seeds

Rugby union: Fears that England, Scotland and Ireland would have to engage in play-offs to decide their Rugby World Cup (RWC) seedings in 1999 have been allayed. The RWC organisers revealed yesterday they had accepted a request by the three home unions that the seedings should be decided by a draw, which will take place in July. This will prevent the need for the teams to meet each other in addition to their five nations games next season.

Women to fore

Golf: Eurosport, which lost the rights to screen the European men's golf tour this season, has signed a four-year deal to cover the women's circuit. The 1998 and 2000 Solheim Cup matches are included in the contract and Terry Coates, chairman and chief executive of the American Express-sponsored tour, said that joining forces with Eurosport would "develop an exciting partnership".

Baulked

Billiards: Mike Russell, the world No 1 and world champion, sustained his first defeat for 14 months yesterday. Russell, from Peterborough, was beaten 4-3 by Nalin Patel, of India, in the quarter-finals of the Gold Flake Indian Open in Madras. His last reverse came at the hands of Roxton Chapman in the quarter-finals of the 1995 world championship in Bombay.

Back in action

Rugby union: The former captain, Philippe Saint-André, returns for the newly-crowned five nations' champions France, in a much-changed team to play Italy in Grenoble tomorrow.

FRANCE: J-L Sadourny; S Ougier, Y Delaigue, P Bondouy, P Saint-Andre; D Aucagne, G Accoceberry; M de Rougemont, M Dalmaso, F Tournaire, A Costes, H Miorin, O Merle, P Benetton, F Pelous (captain).

HOCKEY

Hightown ending on a low note

WHAT a difference a year makes. Last season Hightown travelled to Doncaster needing one point to clinch the Premiership title. Tomorrow the champions meet the Yorkshire club in a last-ditch struggle to avoid relegation (a Correspondent writes).

In fact, the Merseysiders' crisis is so serious that their player-coach, Maggie Souyave, who is also the England national coach, will almost certainly fly back from the junior home countries internationals in Dublin to play in the match.

With three games left in the league and only Doncaster and Trojans below them, Souyave acknowledges that their parlous position near the foot of the table is "dire". But they will still be struggling to field 11 players because of the unavailability of Kate Walsh and Kate Hendrick, their two England junior players, and the long-term injuries to Caroline Gilbert, Helen Grant and Debbie Mills.

"It's critical when you consider the injury problems and the absence of Lucy Newcombe, who is completing her RAF officers' training," Souyave said. "But during the season we really haven't performed. These are changing times at the club and it's been disruptive."

Defeated England left in last place

Australia 5
England 2

FROM SYDNEY FRISKIN IN KARACHI

ENGLAND'S campaign in the five-nation Golden Jubilee tournament ended here yesterday with a defeat by Australia, who wiped out a 2-0 deficit to win convincingly. The result consigned England to last place and put them out of the medal play-offs.

Everything went right for England, who swept to a 2-0 lead in 13 minutes with strong running and a quick interchange of positions. In the fifth minute Garcia scored with an angled shot from the right of the circle and eight minutes later an attack launched by Garrard, helped along by Head, ended in a goal by Crutchley.

Australia responded in the 24th minute with a goal by Smith, who put the finishing touch to a shot by Davies. By half-time they were 3-2 ahead, Stacy having scored two goals, his first from a short corner.

After the interval England pinned Australia in their own half for 25 minutes, but, although several shots were aimed at goal by Conway, Crutchley and Waugh, the vigilance of Dreher, the Australia goalkeeper, prevented a score.

The story of England's unconverted short corners continued, with five in the second half bearing no fruit, the shots being too weak to beat Dreher.

A final thrust by Australia pushed England back in the last eight minutes. Stacy scored from a short corner and Elmer added the fifth, almost on the final whistle, from a pass by Lewis, who, in making the run, had the left flank all to himself.

Among the tireless workers in the England team were Garrard, in deep defence, Sharpe, in midfield, and Garcia, in attack, with Head and Crutchley lending solid support.

The round-robin match between Germany and Holland tomorrow will be a dress rehearsal for the final on Sunday; their positions are unassailable. Similary, Pakistan will meet Australia on consecutive days, the second time for the bronze medal. Today is a rest day.

AUSTRALIA: L Dreher, D Sproule, M York, S Carruthers, B Livermore, T Elmer, J Stacy (captain), P Lewis, B Choppy, S Davies, M Smith. Substitutes used: M Brennan, J Hislop.

ENGLAND: D Luckes, J Wallis, B Garrard, A Humphrey, W Waugh, B Sharpe, J Pidcock, J Lee, S Head, R Garcia (captain), R Crutchley. Substitutes used: N Conway, D Hall, L Pearn.

Umpires: C Siebrecht (Germany), G Gorissen (Holland).

FOR THE RECORD

BADMINTON

BASLE: Swiss men's open championship: Second round: Dong Jiong (China) bt P Knowles (Eng) 15-10, 15-3.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Utah 113 Boston 100; Charlotte 90 Cleveland 72; Toronto 99 Detroit 97; New York 111 Philadelphia 100; Atlanta 107 Indiana 95; Miami 93 Golden State 91 (OT); Minnesota 95 Vancouver 72; Los Angeles Clippers 108 Sacramento 98.

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Sheffield 78 London Towers 79.

BILLIARDS

MADRAS, India: Gold Flake championship: First round: R Chapman (Eng) bt P Sheehan (Eng) 4-1; R Foldvari (Aus) bt I Malik (India) 4-0; C Shutt (Eng) bt A Shandilya (India) 4-3; M Russell (Eng) bt A Jhunjhunwala (India) 4-0. Second round: M Kothari (India) bt B Bhaskar (India) 4-3; N Patel (India) bt S Agrawal (India) 4-2.

BOWLS

PERTH: Women's home international indoor championships: Scotland bt Wales 144-94 (Scotland skips first: E McGarvie bt B Morgan 27-13; J Conlan bt D Rowlands 20-18; H Hutchison bt J Ackland 24-14; E Wren drew with R Jones 19-19; A Christie bt A Dainton 25-14; J Sykes bt G Miles 29-16). England bt Ireland 131-103 (England skips first: J Royance lost to J Mulholland 19-22; D Hankin bt D Paisley 26-11; N Shaw bt M Fearon 21-17; B Alderson bt B Wiley 20-16; M Price lost to M Johnston 17-20; M Steele bt A McGuinness 28-17). Wales bt Ireland 135-84 (Wales skips first: B Morgan bt M Fearon 33-12; J Ackland bt Mabel Johnston 27-11; D Rowlands lost to J Mulholland 14-19; R Jones bt A McGuinness 23-11; A Dainton lost to Margaret Johnston 17-23; G Miles bt Wyle 21-18).

CRICKET

NAPIER: Tour match (one-day): Central Districts 227 (M Sinclair 67, C M Spearman 56, S T Jayasuriya 5-37); Sri Lankans 228-4 (A Ranatunga 56 not out). Sri Lankans won by six wickets.

FOOTBALL

Wednesday's late results

EUROPEAN CUP: Quarter-finals, second leg: Atletico Madrid 2 Ajax 3 (aet; 1-1 after 90min; Ajax win 4-3 on aggregate). Auxerre 0 Borussia Dortmund 1 (Dortmund win 4-1 on aggregate). FC Porto 0 Manchester United 0 (Manchester United win 4-0 on aggregate). Juventus 2 Rosenborg 0 (Juventus win 3-1 on aggregate).

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Chelsea 1 Southampton 0; Leicester City 1 Tottenham Hotspur 1; Middlesbrough 2 Blackburn Rovers 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man Utd	30	17	9	4	59	33	60
Liverpool	30	16	9	5	51	25	57
Arsenal	31	16	9	6	51	26	57
Newcastle	29	15	6	8	58	35	51
Chelsea	30	13	10	7	51	43	49
Sheff Wed	30	12	12	6	39	35	48
A Villa	30	13	8	9	35	27	47
Wimbledon	29	12	9	8	41	36	45
Leeds	31	11	7	13	24	32	40
Tottenham	30	11	6	13	36	39	39
Leicester	30	10	8	12	35	42	38
Blackburn	30	8	12	10	33	30	36
Everton	30	9	9	12	37	43	36
Derby	30	7	11	12	31	45	32
Sunderland	31	8	8	15	28	47	32
West Ham	30	7	9	14	28	40	30
Coventry	31	6	12	13	26	43	30
Nottm F	31	6	11	14	26	47	29
†Middlesbro.	29	8	7	14	42	51	28
Southampton	30	6	8	16	37	49	26

†Middlesbrough deducted three points

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Salisbury 1 Gresley Rovers 1. Midland division: Corby Town 1 Bedworth United 2. Southern division: St Leonards 4 Clevedon Town 1.

UNIBOND LEAGUE: First division: Droylsden 2 Gretna 2. President's Cup: Semi-final, second leg: Farsley Celtic 1 Runcorn 2 (Runcorn win 2-1 on aggregate).

GILBERT LEAGUE OF WALES: Cwmbran 6 Aberystwyth 0. Cup: Semi-final, first leg: Ton Pentre 3 Barry Town 1.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Brighton 0 Swansea City 0; Bournemouth 1 Oxford United 2; Ipswich Town 5 Bristol Rovers 0; Millwall 1 Bristol City 1; Norwich City 2 Tottenham Hotspur 3; Southampton 2 Luton Town 0. League Cup: Swindon Town 1 Cardiff City 0.

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Bolton Wanderers 2 Nottingham Forest 1; Leeds United 0 Oldham Athletic 1. First division: Aston Villa 2 Blackpool 0; Port Vale 2 Huddersfield Town 1; Sunderland 2 Wolverhampton Wanderers 0. Second division: Carlisle United 3 Rotherham United 1; Grimsby Town 2 Burnley 1; Hull City 0 Barnsley 3; Wrexham 4 Bradford City 1; York City 0 Manchester City 1. Third division: Darlington 1 Lincoln City 1; Doncaster Rovers 2 Bury 0; Rochdale 0 Walsall 0; Scarborough 1 Chesterfield 1; Scunthorpe United 1 Chester City 2.

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: King's Heath 4 Coventry Sphinx 1; Meir KA 3 Boldmere Swifts 1.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Eastwood Hanley 2 Trafford 1; Rossendale United 1 Clitheroe 1.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Sheppey United 3 Greenwich Borough 2.

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Bridport 0 Chard Town 1; Westbury United 0 Calne Town 1.

HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Endsleigh 2 Wantage Town 0; Kintbury Rangers 1 Didcot Town 2; Lambourn Sports 2 Fairford Town 0.

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Three Bridges 1 Arundel 1.

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Tow Law Town 3 South Shields 3.

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: London Colney 1 Milton Keynes 2.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Sheffield 0 Ossett Albion 0.

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Soham Town Rangers 2 Halstead Town 0; Stowmarket Town 2 Tiptree United 3; Wisbech Town 1 Warboys Town 0.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Christchurch 1 Cowes Sports 2.

BASS IRISH CUP: Quarter-final replay: Coleraine 0 Loughgall United 1.

FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE: National division: Arsenal 2 Croydon 1.

SCHOOLS MATCH: English Schools Snickers Under-19 Trophy: Quarter-final: Parmiters 6 Richard Challoner 4.

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Malta 1 Hungary 4 (in Valletta).

COPA LIBERTADORES: Group one: Guarani (Para) 0 Oriente Petrolero (Bol) 0. Group two: Velez Sarsfield (Arg) 3 El Nacional (Ecu) 0. Group three: Mineros Guayana (Ven) 1 Universidad Catolica (Chile) 1. Group four: Cruzeiro (Br) 2 Alianza (Peru) 0. Group five: Nacional (Uru) 2 Penarol (Uru) 0; Millonarios (Col) 2 Deportivo Cali (Col) 2.

HOCKEY

KARACHI: Golden Jubilee tournament: Germany 3 Pakistan 3; Australia 5 England 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Holland	3	2	1	0	12	5	7
Germany	3	2	1	0	7	4	7
Pakistan	3	0	3	0	7	7	3
Australia	3	1	0	2	8	7	2
England	4	0	1	3	3	14	1

☐ Holland and Germany qualify for final.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Detroit 4 Boston 1; New York Islanders 7 Florida 4; Montreal 5 New York Rangers 4; Philadelphia 6 Toronto 3; Washington 2 New Jersey 2 (OT); Dallas 7 Phoenix 2; Calgary 4 San Jose 2; Edmonton 3 Tampa Bay 1; Anaheim 8 Los Angeles 2.

ICE SKATING

LAUSANNE: World championships: Pairs: Final positions: 1, M Wötzel and I Steuer (Ger) 1.5 factored placements; 2, M Eltsova and A Bushkov (Russ) 3.0; 3, O Kazakova and A Dmitriev (Russ) 6.0; 4, K Ina and J Dungjen (US) 6.5; 5, J Meno and T Sand (US) 7.0; 6, K Sargeant and K Wirtz (Can) 10.0; 7, S Abitbol and S Bernadis (Fr) 10.5; 8, D Zagorska and M Siudek (Pol) 13.5; 9, E Berezhna and A Shikarouidze (Russ) 13.5; 10, P Schwarz and M Muller (Ger) 14.5; 11, Xue Shen and Hongbo Zhao (China) 16.0; 12, M Khaltourina and A Kroukov (Kaz) 16.0; L Rogers and M Aldred (GB) withdrew injured.

RUGBY LEAGUE

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division: Haworth 23 West Hull 6.

RUGBY UNION

WELSH LEAGUE: Second division: Cross Keys 46 Bonymaen 8.

SAILING

BT GLOBAL CHALLENGE: Fourth leg: Latest positions (Sydney to Cape Town, with miles to Cape Town, as at 13.50 GMT yesterday): 1, Group 4 3,421; 2, Concert 3,427; 3, Save The Children 3,437; 4, Global Teamwork 3,438; 5, Toshiba Wave Warrior 3,445; 6, Commercial Union 3,476; 7, Motorola 3,484; 8, Time & Tide 3,532; 9, Ocean Rover 3,543; 10, 3Com 3,561; 11, Courtaulds International 3,587; 12, Pause To Remember 3,607; 13, Nuclear Electric 3,621; 14, Heath Insured II 3,840.

SNOOKER

GOFFS, Co Kildare: Benson and Hedges Irish Masters: First round: S Davis (Eng) bt K Doherty (Ire) 6-1. Quarter-final: R O'Sullivan (Eng) bt J Higgins (Scot) 6-4.

SQUASH

ANTWERP: Women's tournament: First round: M Martin (Aus) bt H Van Hoorn (Holl) 9-2, 9-3, 9-7; N Grainger (SA) bt J Martin (Eng) 5-9, 10-8, 9-0, 9-1; C Nitch (SA) bt J Hickey (Aus) 9-1, 9-5, 9-4; M Bell (Aus) bt K Hannes (Bel) 9-4, 3-9, 10-8, 9-0; R Macree (Eng) bt C Castets (Fr) 9-5, 9-1, 9-6; L Irving (Aus) bt S Macfie (Scot) 9-1, 5-9, 9-7, 9-2; R Grinham (Aus) bt I Stoehr (Fr) 9-8, 3-9, 9-5, 9-5; J Tranfield (Eng) w/o S Wright (Eng) scr.

TENNIS

ST PETERSBURG: Men's tournament: Second round: A Clement (Fr) w o G Rusedski (GB) scr; M Norman (Swe) bt D Prinosil (Ger) 1-6, 6-4, 6-3; R Furlan (It) bt O Stanoychev (Bul) 7-5, 6-3; J Krosiak (Slovakia) bt F Santoro (Fr) 3-6, 6-4, 6-3.

POOLS DIVIDENDS

LITTLEWOODS: Treble chance: 24pts £92,017.70; 23 £361.25; 22 £27.55; 21 £6.15. Half-time: 23pts max £10,274. Four draws: £16.45. Ten homes: £190.50. Five aways: £13.90.

VERNONS: Treble chance: 24pts £48,328.55; 23 £218 55; 22 £35.90.

ZETTERS: Treble chance: 24 pts £8,141 95; 23 £32 85; 22 £3 30; 21 £0.45. Four draws: £10.20. Eight homes: £20.00. Four aways: £2. Super 7: £127.20.

FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

Nationwide League
Second division
Luton v Brentford (7.45)
Third division
Colchester v Rochdale (7.45)
Doncaster v Hereford

GILBERT LEAGUE OF WALES: Flint Town v Conwy

FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Dundalk v Shamrock (7.45); St Patrick's Ath v Cork (7.45); Shelbourne v Finn Harps (7.45).

SCHOOLS MATCH: English Snickers Under-19 Trophy: Quarter-final: Rainham Mark Grammar, Kent v Colchester SFC (at Gillingham)

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Manchester v Birmingham (7.30); Chester v Thames Valley (8.0).

RUGBY LEAGUE

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

Stones Super League
Oldham v Bradford
Paris Saint-Germain v Leeds (7.0)
Warrington v London
First division
Dewsbury v Featherstone (7.45)
Second division
Lancashire Lynx v Carlisle

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Manchester v Birmingham (7.30); Chester v Thames Valley (8.0).

BOWLS: English indoor champion of champions (at Bembridge).

GOLF: Sunningdale Foursomes

SNOOKER: Benson and Hedges Irish Masters (Co Kildare)

SWIMMING: British grand prix meeting (at Cardiff).

Hu

Paying the price for ifs with too many buts

LYNNE TRUSS

Kicking and Screaming

Pitiful to recollect it now, of course, but, on Tuesday afternoon, I was really looking forward to the match. "*Y a-t'il un match de football quelque part ce soir?*" I practised saying in an eager tone, as the spanky new airport bus from Nice sped east in bright sun along the high coast road of the Riviera. "*A quelle heure commence le spectacle?*"

Spotting the elegant arches of the Louis II Stadium below in the town, I gave a little squeal, and pointed it out to some Newcastle supporters. "The, er, Stade!" I said. Now that I remember it, those poor black-and-white-clad saps were pretty excited about it, too. "Reckon they're in for a bit of a culture shock, like," one of my companions suggested, meaning the invasion of irrepressible Geordies who would spend their afternoon at leisure in the Principality ordering beers in high multiples ("That's not for all of us, mind; that's *each*!"), baring their NUFC tatoos for the local papers and standing hilariously at hairpin bends in Monte Carlo making "Nyow! Nyow!" noises at passing cars. Little did any of us suspect that Monaco would later ignominiously cut through Newcastle like bullets through a cream puff, thus making the culture shock rebound all at once, and travel quite forcibly in the opposite direction.

If only Newcastle had redeemed themselves by a single goal, or a single stroke of genius, or a couple of decent passes. If only Ginola had not fallen over so often. If only Beardsley had not given the ball away. Nobody wants to travel hundreds of miles at great expense and be made to look like jerks, but that is pretty much what happened on Tuesday. This match was a jaw-dropping disaster for Newcastle, the second half being about as much a treat for the eyes as removing a plaster from your eyelids. Monaco looked like greyhounds; Newcastle were just doggy.

'Jaw-dropping disaster for Newcastle'

"*Insatiable. Benarbia travaille un coup-franc qui hypnotise Hislop*," a joyous *Nice-Matin* reported next day. *L'Equipe* rubbed it in, too — "*3-0, cette fois la demi-finale est dans la poche*."

Dans la poche — funny how certain phrases translate, and other idioms come as a surprise. *But* is the word for goal in French, and there is even a newspaper called *But! le passion du foot*.

However, I did not know this on Tuesday night, when the word inexplicably appeared on the scoreboard in big letters after Legwinski's opener. *In this bare form, it provided a* cruel ray of hope. The ball went soaring in, the crowd yelled and danced, and then the word *BUT* appeared, looking for all the world like an enormous quibble.

"But?" *I asked, holding my breath.* "But what? But he was offside? But we really should go back and take that again because you obviously weren't ready?" But nothing, as it turned out. Just *BUT!*

The Newcastle supporters' good spirits will return in time, of course, but I will never forget hearing one of them articulate beautifully his hurt feelings after the match, in halting, regretful franglais. "You, vous, Monaco — très good," he told a gratified passer-by. "We, Newcastle — shite."

So it was a surreal day, all in all; and, just as every Newcastle traveller will remember March 18 with a mixture of emotions, so will I. Having never seen Newcastle in the flesh before, I now found myself not only in the same stadium as the famous squad, but sitting not a phrase-book's toss from Les Ferdinand and Alan Shearer. Gosh!

How extraordinary to reflect that, a year ago, I had never heard of Shearer, or his equally famous dicky groin, while now I excitedly pick him out by recognising the back of his head. "That's Shearer!" I told a surprised sophisticate from *The Herald Tribune's* Paris office, pointing to where the great No 9 sat several rows in front. I was entranced.

So, on top of all the other disappointments, just my luck that it was Monaco's night. Twice I had the opportunity to catch Shearer's eye and give him a jolly smile of recognition, but twice I felt like a *village idiot waving at a funeral.* Unfortunately, the proper facial expression just does not exist to convey: a) Gutted that you lost; b) But ever so pleased to see you; c) You did deserve to lose, though, didn't you? and d) It'll all look better in the morning.

'None of my heroes gave me a glance'

Shamelessly, I hung around at the players' exit, experimenting with rueful grimaces and sympathetic nods, but finally gave up because none of my heroes gave me a glance; and, besides, having tried to get Chris Waddle's attention for at least half an hour, my face ached. When poor Darren Peacock glided past, like a ghost, I decided: "No, they've suffered enough, without this," and, not before time, I also recollected *Robert Crampton's Times* piece about Eric Cantona last Saturday, in which he described "loserish" middle-aged women waiting at gates to see footballers. Lumme. Loserish. *Mon dieu, c'est moi!*

Next morning, on Monte Carlo TV, anyone expecting to see endless replays of the match found instead a *half-hour commercial* for a range of microwave accessories — so nobody should imagine that Monaco was big-headed or gloaty, or anything other than *sportive*.

My main worry was for that poor Newcastle *supporter sorrowfully* shaking hands with strangers under the Monaco moon.

ICE SKATING

Aspiring Britons still lusting in the shadows

From Simon Barnes in Lausanne

MOST sports are about war. Most dances are about sex, and that counts double for the tango. Why? Look at Marika Humphreys. You'd *think* she was a nice, ordinary, if noticeably pretty English girl. But then the music started, and she was snarling with unrestrained lust at her partner, Philip Askew, as if she were in two minds as to whether to devour him or disembowel him.

Perhaps it is true, what they say about bald men. And then the music stopped. And she was quite all right again. The most recent British assault on the world ice dancing championship was going strong. This was the original dance section of the competition; the medals will be awarded after the free programme, tonight.

And Marika won't get one, alas, for all those curled and *glossed lips, and those white,* bared teeth. She and Phil are down with the dead men after collecting 4.8s in a sport in which Brits had once known nothing but sixes. The nation that produced Torvill and Dean stands sixteenth out of 29 starters in the competition.

This is still pretty good, and they skated with verve and charm as well as lust, but, all the same, they do not look like *the legitimate heirs to the T&D* tradition. What went wrong?

Several couples have sought to follow Torvill and Dean and some made a good fist of it. Karen Barber and Nicky Slater finished fifth in the world with a delightful Charlie Chaplin routine. After them came Sharon Jones and Paul Askham. Finishing ninth in *the world was no disgrace, but* nobody could ever forgive them for not being T&D.

Carlo Fassi, the Italian coach who inspired John Curry and Robin Cousins to Olympic titles, has died in hospital after suffering a heart attack in Lausanne, aged 67. Fassi was coach to Nicole Bobek, of the United States.

So the chance to establish a tradition of excellence has, somehow, gone down the plughole. *Well, it must have* been hard to write first dramas after Shakespeare had done his stuff and no one was able to follow Milton with another blank verse epic. Perhaps the truly great somehow *use up their chosen medium,* at least for those around them.

Certainly the shadow of Torvill and Dean is dense and certainly no British ice dancer seems able to emerge from it. Torvill and Dean were, in their way, great artists condemned to a rather ludicrous medium. If James Joyce had been committed to writing only cowboy stories, he would have written cowboy stories of genius, but they wouldn't have been *Ulysses*.

And so, at the opposite end of the championship spectrum, the couples smiled lustfully in the direction of the crown that Torvill and Dean once wore. Enflamed with simulated lechery, they went *to war in sequins and nude*-coloured nylon, each couple determined to outsex the rest. We wanted a fair fight, no messing about below the belt, and may the most lascivious woman win.

Russia seems to do a good line in lascivious women. The great Russian tradition of ice dance — or ice anything for that matter — shows no sign of dying out. Perhaps because it was never dominated by a single act.

Three Russian couples took the ice, each one more erotically charged than the one before. Three and a half hours of wall-to-wall female sexual aggression reached its climax, if that is quite the word I'm looking for, with Oksana Gritschuk and Evgeny Platov.

This is the top Russian pair and I predict that they will win the championship tonight. I am not alone in this; so does everyone else in Lausanne.

They bagged a *perfect six* from one judge yesterday, the first ice dance couple to do so at the world championships since Isabelle and Paul Duchesnay the love 'em or *hate 'em French-Canadian* pair, in 1991. Torvill and Dean got nine sixes for artistic impression at the world championships of 1984.

G&P, *if I may call them that,* will get more tomorrow, I fancy. They cleverly rang the changes on the tango clichés. Gritschuk, a platinum blonde of some presence, was dressed *in scarlet, skirt slashed from* hem up to the fifth rib. But she played it more submissive than the rest. Lust, she implied is for wimps, tenderness is *another matter altogether.*

Russian couples finished first, second and seventh, which shows the viability of a tradition of excellence and underlines the way that Brit*ish ice dance somehow failed* to establish one.

Afterwards, Gritschuk pouted prettily at the press with her classically bee-stung *lips and hoped for still better* things tonight. She is able to project all about her an air of complete silliness, something that is, at least for the moment, quite irresistible. But then, the *whole sport is a bit like that.*

Standings, page 45

DENIS BALIBOUSE / REUTERS

Gritschuk and Platov perform their relatively tender routine in Lausanne yesterday

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CHANGING TIMES

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 43

CHERIMOYA

(c) A small tree (*Anona Cherimolia*), a native of Peru, with sweet-scented, greenish flowers. Also the pulpy fruit of this tree, highly esteemed on account of its delicious flavour. It is of considerable size, irregularly heart-shaped, with a scaly exterior. An Anglicised form of the Quichua name. Expect to meet them in your supermarket any day.

CHITTARONE

(c) An instrument of the guitar kind, but strung with wire, and played with a plectrum or quill. *Much used in the 16th and 17th* centuries. Spelt variously, but derived from the Latin *cithara*. Commonly kept in barbers' shops for the use of the customers. It had often a grotesquely carved head. The Tyrolean form of the instrument, which came into fashion in England in the 19th century, is distinguished as the zither.

CHITTERLING

(b) The smaller intestines of beasts, as of the pig, especially as an article of food prepared by frying or boiling. Sometimes filled with mincemeat or forcemeat, as a kind of sausage. Of Teutonic origins, such as the German *kutteln* chawdrons. "His warped Ear hung o'er the Strings,/ Which was but Souce to *Chitterlings*."

CHOCHO

(a) Name in the British West Indies of a cucurbitaceous plant (*Sechium edule*), cultivated for its wholesome succulent fruit. The native name in Brazil, but elsewhere, alias. "From Madeira its fruits are sometimes sold in Covent Garden Market under the name of Chayotes."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Qh5! g6 (1 ... h6 2 Qxe8+ wins) 2 Qxh7+! Rxh7 3 Rxe8+ Kg7 4 R1e7+ Kh6 5 Rxh7 checkmate

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Conditions Piste	Conditions Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
ANDORRA								
Soldeu	20	140	fair	varied	poor	sun	9	15/2
(Highest runs still ok: lower slopes worn)								
AUSTRIA								
Obergurgl	50	170	good	powder	good	snow	-3	20/2
(Superb skiing with fresh powder; no queues)								
St Anton	40	260	powder	powder	good	snow	2	20/3
(50cm fresh powder: fantastic skiing)								
FRANCE								
Avoriaz	140	160	good	powder	good	cloud	0	19/3
(Wonderful powder skiing in 50cm new snow)								
Flaine	70	230	powder	powder	good	fair	-5	19/3
(Deep powder everywhere: fabulous skiing)								
La Plagne	130	210	good	powder	fair	cloud	-3	19/3
(Pistes much improved by new snow: great skiing)								
Tignes	140	200	good	powder	good	sun	-6	20/3
(Excellent conditions both on and off piste)								
Val d'Isère	100	210	good	powder	good	fair	4	20/3
(Fantastic powder skiing everywhere)								
ITALY								
Cervinia	50	320	good	powder	fair	fine	-3	19/3
(Great skiing on nearly all runs: windy at altitude)								
Livigno	60	170	good	crusty	fair	wind	-2	19/3
(Good skiing generally but some wind-exposed hard spots).								
SWITZERLAND								
Klosters	15	210	good	powder	good	snow	2	20/3
(New snow and superb skiing)								
Mürren	50	120	good	powder	good	fair	0	20/3
(Great skiing everywhere thanks to plenty of new snow)								
Wengen	5	80	good	powder	fair	snow	1	20/3
(Wonderful conditions on all but lowest runs)								

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper.

RADIO CHOICE

A gentleman and a player

Paths of Inspiration. *Radio 2, 7.00pm.*

It is too long since the England and West Indies cricket teams were led by captains who had the mark of men who could have succeeded at anything, but not so long that their names are forgotten: Mike Brearley and Clive Lloyd. Lloyd is Trevor McDonald's interviewee in this excellent series tonight and what makes Lloyd (like Brearley) interesting as a man is that the qualities he brought to leading a cricket team were developed far beyond the game's boundaries, so to speak. Lloyd is fascinating on his background and on those who inspired him, from Shakespeare to Martin Luther King and Nelson Mandela. He is also interesting on the future of cricket.

Lumiere's Children — Man with a Movie Camera. *Radio 4, 8.50pm.*

I have not been able to hear a sample of this series but it promises to be essential listening for cinema buffs. The series is an exploration, by Christopher Cook, of the way cinema has fused art and technology over the past 100 years. The first programme includes the recollections of *Madame* Renee Bamberger, god-daughter of Louis Lumiére, one of the brothers who not only invented the first cine camera but also made early newsreels and what is regarded as the first movie, *La Sortie des Usines Lumiére*. The series has interviews with a number of leading film makers and pioneers, including Martin Scorsese.

Peter Barnard

RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Radcliffe **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Jo Whiley **2.00pm** Nicky Campbell **4.00** Kevin Greening **6.15** Newsbeat **7.00** Pete Tong: Essential Selection, featuring the best new dance music **10.00** One in the Jungle **12.00** Radio 1 Rap Show with Tim Westwood **3.00am** Charlie Jordan

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **11.30** Jimmy Young **1.30pm** Debbie Thrower **3.00** Ed Stewart **5.05** Paul Heiney **7.00** Paths of Inspiration. See Choice (3/5) **7.30** Friday Night is Music Night from the Hippodrome in Golders Green, London. Featuring the BBC Concert Orchestra under Barry Wordsworth **8.45** Rumpole for the Defence. With Leo McKern (6/6) **9.00** Listen to the Band **10.00** Mavis Nicholson **12.05am** Jon Briggs

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am World Sevens. Includes at **5.45** Wake Up to Money **6.00** The Breakfast Programme **9.00** The Magazine **12.00** Midday with Mair **2.00pm** Ruscoe on Five **4.00** Nationwide **7.00** News Extra **7.35** Alan Green's Sportstalk **8.30** Friday Sport. Robin Bailey introduces coverage of Luton Town v Brentford in Division Two and the Super League game between Warrington and London **10.00** Paper Talk **11.00** News Extra with David McNeil **12.00** After Hours **2.00am** Up All Night with Richard Dallyn

TALK RADIO

5.00am Chris Ashley and Sandy Warr **7.00** Paul Ross **9.00** Scott Chisholm **12.00** Lorraine Kelly **2.00pm** Tommy Boyd **4.00** Drivetime, with Peter Deeley **7.00** Moz Dee's Sportszone **10.00** Mike Allen **1.00am** Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. News on the hour. **5.30am** Europe Today **6.30** Europe Today **7.15** Red Dwarf (7/12) **7.30** The *Missionaries* **8.10** *Words of Faith* **8.15** Music *Review* **8.45** Soundbyte **9.05** World Business Report **9.15** Focus on Faith **9.45** Sport **10.30** BBC English **10.45** Red Dwarf (7/12) **11.30** Meridian Books **12.05pm** Business **12.15** Britain Today **12.30** Science in Action **2.05** Outlook **2.30** Multitrack **3.05** Sport **3.15** Soundbyte **3.30** Music Review **4.15** World Today **4.30** BBC English **4.45** Britain Today **5.30** World Business Report **5.45** Sport **6.30** Focus on Faith **7.01** Outlook **7.25** Words of Faith **7.30** Multitrack **9.05** World Business Report **9.15** Britain Today **9.30** People and Politics **10.30** *The New Europe* **10.45** Sport **11.10** Spotlight **11.15** Insider's Guide **11.25** Book Choice **11.30** Multitrack **12.30am** Seven Days **12.45** Britain Today **1.30** Outlook **1.55** Words of Faith **2.30** Science in Action **3.15** Sport **3.30** Meridian Live **4.30** Jazz Now and Then **4.45** Seven Days

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths **6.00** Mike Read **9.00** Henry Kelly **12.00** Susannah Simons **2.00pm** Concerto. Chausson (Concerto for Violin, Piano and String Quartet) **3.00** Jamie Crick **7.00** Classic Newsnight **7.30** Sonata. Rossini (String Sonata No 6 in D major) **8.00** Evening Concert. Tchaikovsky (Romeo and Juliet); Grieg (Piano Concerto in A minor Op 16); Beethoven (Symphony No 3 in E flat major Op 55) **10.00** Michael Mappin **1.00am** Sally Peterson

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono **10.00** Graham Dene **1.00pm** Jeremy Clark **4.00** Nicky Horne **7.00** Paul Coyte (FM) / Robin Banks (AM) **10.00** Alan Freeman **12.00** Mark Forrest **2.00am** Howard Pearce

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Penny Gore. *Includes Mozart (Serenade in* D, K203); Heinichen (Concerto in F); D'Indy (Suite Dans le Style Ancien); Danzi (Wind Quintet in E flat); Vivaldi (Concerto No 6 in G); Falla, arr Heifetz (Suite Populaire Espagnole); Telemann (Overture-Suite in C)

9.00 Morning Collection, with Peter Hobday. Includes Poulenc (Suite Française); Beethoven (Elegischer Gesang, Op 118); Bach (Goldberg Variations, BWV988)

10.00 Musical Encounters, with Mairi Nicolson. Includes Rameau (Overture Les Boreades); Fauré (Les Djinns); Mozart (Piano Sonata in D, K576); Dutilleux (Deux *Sonnets de Jean Cassou*); Tchaikovsky (Violin Concerto in D); Poulenc (Gloria)

12.00 Composer of the Week: Henry Cowell

1.00pm News; Chamber Music from Manchester. Live from Studio Seven, introduced by Rodney Slatford. Peter Lawson, piano. Jonathan Harvey (Tombeau de Messiaen); Dallapiccola (Quaderno Musicale di Annalibera); Rzewski (North American Ballads)

2.00 *Work, Rests and Play.* Players and *staff* of the BBC Symphony Orchestra reveal what they love and loathe about orchestral life. Includes Mendelssohn (Overture: The Hebrides, Fingal's Cave)

2.15 Music Restored. *Women in* Early Music. With Anthony Rooley, lute, and Evelyn Tubb, soprano. Includes music by Purcell, Eccles and Blow *(4/4) (r)*

3.00 Mining the Archive. A recording from 1970 of the cellist Pierre Fournier. Includes Bach (Suite No 3 in C, BWV1009); Schubert (Piano Trio in E flat, D898); Dvořák (Cello Concerto in B minor)

5.00 Music Machine, with Tommy Pearson

5.15 In Tune, with Jeremy Nicholas. Includes Herbert (American Fantasy); Beethoven (Ten National Airs with Variations, Op 107); Mozart (Vorrei Spiegarvi, oh Dio!)

7.45 Ulster Orchestra, under Dmitiri Sitkovetsky, with Ilya Kaler, violin, live from the Ulster Hall, Belfast. Barber *(Adagio for Strings)*; Bernstein (Serenade) **8.30** Irish Stories: Men and Angels, by Anne Enright **8.50** Concert, part 2 Tchaikovsky (Symphony No 4 in F minor)

9.50 Paperback Writers. Andy Martin sets out to discover the legacy of the 1960s (5/5)

10.15 Hear and Now. Music from the 1960s. Anbthony Payne talsk about the impact that composers such as Ligeti, Lutoslawski, Lutyens and Maxwell Davies (3/4)

12.15am Composers of the Week: Campra, Clérambault and Montéclair (r)

1.00 Through the Night, with Donald Macleod. Includes Mendelssohn (Elijah); Handel *(Water Music Suite No 1 in F);* Bach (Orchestral Suite No 3 in D, BWV1068); Handel (Concerto grosso No 6 in D)

RADIO 4

***5.55am Shipping (LW)* 6.00** News **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** Today. Includes Thought for the Day **8.40** Yesterday in Parliament

9.00 News 9.05 Desert Island Discs. Sue Lawley talks to the interior designer Nina Campbell (r)

9.45 Feedback, with Chris Dunkley

10.00 News; Messages to Myself (FM). June Barrie reads extracts from the diary of Inga *Joseph (5/5)*

10.00 An Act of Worship (LW)

10.15 On This Day (LW)

10.30 Woman's Hour, introduced by Sylvia Horn

11.30 The Natural History Programme

12.00 News; You and Yours, *with* Mark Whittaker

12.25pm Food Programme, with Derek Cooper **12.55** Weather

1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke

1.40 The Archers (r) **1.55** Shipping Forecast

2.00 Classic Serial: The Barchester Chronicles, by Anthony Trollope. With Rosemary Leach and John Carlisle (2/3) (r)

3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift

4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Tim Marlow looks at the works of the satirical German artist George Grosz as an exhibition opens at the Royal Academy in London

4.45 Short Story: In for a Penny, by Lawrence Block. Read by Bob Sherman

5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather

6.00 Six O'Clock News

6.30 Going Places. David Stafford reveals more ideas for things to do this weekend

7.00 News 7.05 The Archers

7.20 Pick of the Week. Chris Serle presents his selection of extracts from BBC radio over the past seven days

8.05 *Any Questions?* *Jonathan* Dimbleby chairs the topical debate from Burghfield Common, near Reading. With Viscount Cranborne, Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the Lords; Robin Cook, MP, Shadow Foreign *Secretary;* Emma Nicholson, MP, Liberal Democrat Spokesperson on Overseas Development and Human Rights; and Andrew Marr, Editor of *The Independent*

8.50 Lumiere's Children. See Choice (r)

9.15 Letter from America, by Alistair Cooke

9.30 Kaleidoscope Feature: Salve Regina. Richard Coles examines the history of the enduring plainsong antiphon and how it reflects changing attitudes (r)

10.00 The World Tonight, with Robin Lustig

10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Duel, by Joseph Conrad. Read by Stephen Boxer (5/5)

11.00 Week Ending. A look at the week's events with Sally Grace and the comedy revue team

11.25 Tea Junction, with Patrick Hannan and guests

11.45 Today in Parliament

12.00 News 12.30am The Late Book: The Hobbit, by J.R.R. Tolkien. Read by Michael Hordern (15/15)

12.48 Shipping Forecast

1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

هكذا من الاعلى

Hugh's all-consuming interest in wildlife

There is the Rolf Harris view of the animal kingdom and then there is Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall's. For while Harris offers us umpteen variations on "cuddly little chap, isn't he?" in *Animal Hospital*, F-W's interest can be boiled down to one simple question: "*Can you eat it?*"

As regular readers may recall, when F-W goes eel-fishing I am never far behind. I can't recall a television event that left quite the same impression as last year's lesson in skinning an eel. "For this," he began brightly, "you need a *stout* post, a *four-inch* nail and a pair of pliers." It made Michael Palin's famous difficulty with snake soup *(first choose your* very much alive snake) look like another episode of Rick Stein.

Last night, F-W, now on board the good ship *Bain Marie*, went eel-fishing again. I packed my tool kit. As it turned out, however, I needn't have bothered because in this instalment of **A Cook on the *Wild Side*** (Channel 4) he was going elver fishing, for the tiny little baby eels that creep along the River Severn under cover of darkness. "Wriggly little chaps," Harris would have said had he been there, wrinkling his nose for full soppy effect. F-W was there and we knew what he was *thinking*. Suddenly, the Sargasso Sea seemed an awfully long way away.

Now at this point I was totally relaxed. Elvers were obviously far *too small to need skinning*. I put the pliers away and settled down to enjoy the comic banter of Hartley Everett, West Country eel-catcher extraordinaire. Elvers got more *cunning as they* grew longer, see: "Ten per cent longer, 10 per cent cleverer, [there was a long, West *Country pause] than a cabbage*".

And with that it was nearly time for breakfast. The elvers in Hartley's bucket *wriggled prettily* in anticipation — breakfast, yummy. He was going to cook them an *allegedly* traditional way, with slices of Old Spot bacon and a goose egg, while F-W was showing *off with something involving* garlic, chilli flakes and rock salt. But first they had to get rid of the "vomp", a sort of slime that keeps elvers... well, slimy. This was *achieved, very gently, with a tea*-towel. The elvers wriggled in grateful delight. "Ooh, much better, no more nasty vomp." And with that Hartley and Hugh *dumped them in two very hot* frying pans... alive.

Really, where was *Rolf Harris* when we needed him? *Would he get the frying pan* to the vets in time? Would he hover in the operating theatre, whispering "*baby eels brought in with* nasty, first-degree burns"? Would he utter the dread "it's not looking *very good*", or bounce back to his recovery room best with: "Cute little chaps, aren't they?"

REVIEW

Matthew Bond

Alas, (particularly for the elvers) *we never found out. By the time* we returned from the long shot to which the director had tactfully retreated, the fatal damage was more or less done. F-W was *pushing a few would-be escapees* to the bottom of his pan with his deadly spatula (bet all the perfumes of Arabia won't get the vomp off that). "We just want to get the little bleeders dead as quickly as possible," he muttered.

Not a sentiment, I expect, you'll find aired very often in the new series of **Animal Hospital (BBC1)** as Rolf and the gang descended on the Hampden Veterinary Practice in Aylesbury. "They've been treating animals here for over 100 years *— incredible isn't it?" Quite incredible*, Rolf.

For the new series the emphasis seems to have been switched away from cloying sentiment towards *humour*. Basically, unless your animal has got something pretty funny wrong with it, it's hardly *worth turning up*. Still, the good burghers of Bucks had laboured long and hard to put on a good display of comic ailments. We had a neurotic parrot, a python that *would have had two penises* had it not turned out to be a girl, a duck with cataracts, and a cat which *might* have had a stroke. Hang on, a cat with a stroke — isn't that a bit serious? "Will she need a CAT scan?" joshed Rolf. Normal service had been resumed.

The traditional cliff-hanger was *provided by Louis, a black cat* which had clearly had a Fearnley-Whittingstall cross its path recently. The resultant bad luck had caused a massive bacterial infec*tion and possibly a brace of lethal* feline viruses. "It's not looking very good," whispered Rolf. The cat, *however*, still has a fighting chance of making it to next week; which is more than can be said for the elvers.

And more, *unless I'm very* much mistaken, than can be said of James Wilby, who finished the first instalment of **Original Sin** (ITV) with a stuffed *snake (kapok rather than sage and* onion) stuck down his throat. Never mind, plenty more stars to go round — Ian Bannen, Sylvia Syms, Amanda Root, Cathryn Harrison: you have to get well down to the minor roles before you even begin to find names you don't know.

This fairly outrageous casting *provides the clue that we are in for* the most theatrical and mannered adaptation of a P.D. James "Dalgliesh" novel that I can recall. Real life has effectively come to a *halt, along with anything re*sembling real work for Commander Dalgliesh (Roy Marsden) who spends much of the time looking moodily out of his riverside window.

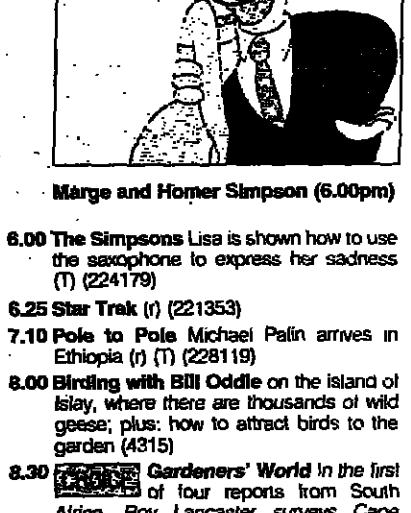
With the help of some reasonably convincing computer graphics, a Venetian *palazzo* has sprung up on the bank of the Thames (so far everybody involved either lives or works by the river) providing offices for the ailing Peverell Press *and a setting for what is essentially* an urban version of a country house murder mystery. The body count currently stands at two. Unless you include the elvers...

6.00am Business Breakfast (37678)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (54605)
9.00 Breakfast News Extra (T) (5950518)
9.20 Style Challenge (4207995)
9.45 Kilroy (T) (4970860)
10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (54266)
11.00 News (T); regional news and weather (6903957)
11.05 The Really Useful Show (T) (7515686)
11.35 Change That *(8190518)*
12.00 News (T); and weather (7057686)
12.05pm The Alphabet Game (5098889)
12.30 Going for a Song (6368957)
12.55 The Weather Show (79422421)
1.00 News (T) and weather (57792)
1.30 Regional News (83109266)
1.40 Neighbours (r) (T) (11496773)
2.05 Woman on the Ledge *(1990) with* Diedre Hall, Leslie Charleson and Colleen *Zenk Pinter*. Tear-jerker about the relationship between three women whose friendship goes back to childhood, told in flashback *from a 15th-floor ledge, where* one of the trio is threatening suicide. *Directed by Chris Thomson (7777131)*
3.30 Playdays (5958402) **3.50** The All New Popeye Show (r) (5969518) **4.15** Fudge *(r) (1965711)* ***4.35*** *The Friday Zone* (5902179) **5.00** Newsround (T) (3262082) **5.10** Blue Peter (T) (8717763)
5.35 Neighbours *(r)* (T) (294402)
6.00 News (T); and weather (711)
6.30 Newsroom South East (173)
7.00 Big Break Jim Davidson hosts the snooker based game show featuring professional players Tony Knowles, John Parrot and David Taylor (T) (3763)
7.30 Top of the Pops (T) (247)
8.00 CHOICE **Tomorrow's World: *Megalab 97*** *Live from the Tomorrow's World* event at the NEC in Birmingham (T) (6773)
8.30 *A Question of Sport* Table tennis ace Lisa Lomas, rugby's Jonathan Davies, Aston Villa's Mark Bosnich and swimmer Graeme Smith join David Coleman, and team captains John Parrott and Sam Torrance (T) (5808)
9.00 News (T); regional news and weather (4150)
9.30 CHOICE **Silent Witness: Only the Lonely** In the first of a two-part story. Ross is certain there's more to a woman's death than meets the eye. With Amanda Burton, Mick Ford and William Armstrong (T) (176792)
10.20 The Mrs Merton Show Keith Chegwin and Ian Botham join the perky pensioner on the sofa tonight (T) (385315)
10.50 Poltergeist (1982) with JoBeth Williams, Craig T. Nelson and Heather O'Rourke. The home of an all-American family is invaded by spooks who gain access through the television set. Produced by Steven Spielberg and directed by Tobe Hooper (T) (12547060)
12.40am That's Your Funeral (1972) Macabre comedy, *with* Bill Fraser, Raymond Huntley and David Battley. Directed by John Robins (7063700)
2.00 Weather (8031193)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes

The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode™ numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+™ handset. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. Videoplus+ (™), Pluscode (™) and *Video Programmer are trademarks of* Gemstar Development Ltd.

6.00am Open University: Reflections on a Global Screen (7986518) **6.25** Reading *the Landscape (3817470)* **7.15** News **7.30** Wacky Races (r) (8653315) **7.55** *The Really Wild Show* (r) (T) (3033889) **8.20** Just So Stories (r) (7422266) **8.35** The Record (5619773) **9.00** The French Experience (5967808) **9.15** The Biology Collection (165860) **9.45** Watch (7734131) **10.00** Playdays (18315) **10.30** Hotch Potch House (2048773) **10.50** Cosmo and Dibs in Punjabi and English (5912334) **11.00** Look and Read (9948112) **11.20** Short Circuit (9831860) **11.40** *English Time* (9719334) **12.00** English File (36860) **12.30pm** Working Lunch (63402) **1.00** Scene (55334) ***1.30*** Le Club (83181860) **1.45** Words and Pictures (83186315) **2.00** Just So Stories (36718044) **2.10** Sport on Friday. Helen Rollason introduces coverage of the *ladies' short programme from the World* Figure Skating Championships (576957) **3.55** News (T) ***4.00*** *Today's the Day (976)* **4.30** Ready, Steady, Cook (860) **5.00** Esther (T) (8131)
5.30 Going, Going, Gone (112)



Marge and Homer Simpson (6.00pm)

6.00 The Simpsons Lisa is shown how to use the saxophone to express her sadness (T) (224179)
6.25 Star Trek (r) (221353)
7.10 Pole to Pole Michael Palin arrives in Ethiopia (r) (T) (228119)
8.00 Birding with Bill Oddie on the island of Islay, where there are thousands of wild geese; plus: how to attract birds to the garden (4315)
8.30 CHOICE ***Gardeners' World*** *In the first* of four reports from South Africa, Roy Lancaster surveys Cape Province's wild flowers (T) (6150)
9.00 Attack of the 50ft Woman (1994) with Daryl Hannah. A tongue-in-cheek remake of the 1950s cult sci-fi film. A *long-suffering housewife, out searching* for her philandering husband, is confronted by a UFO. She begins to grow at an alarming rate, taking revenge on all and sundry. Directed by Christopher Guest (T) (3421)
10.28 Shapes of the Invisible (342860)
10.30 Newsnight (T) (586650)
11.25 World Figure Skating Championships The climax of the ice dance competition (881792)
12.05am This Life *(r) (T) (8836464)*
12.50 Stuff the White Rabbit Last in series (5461280)
1.20 Forbidden: Christopher Frayling on El Topo (3980700)
1.30-3.35 El Topo (1971) Cult classic that blends 1960s mysticism with spaghetti western violence and culminates in a graphic, bloody massacre. Directed by Alexandro Jodorowsky. In Spanish with *English subtitles* (83919)

CHOICE

Tomorrow's World: Megalab '97
BBC1, 8.00pm

The grand finale to the BBC's Science Week is a live, viewer-participation programme from the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham. Sceptics may doubt the scientific validity of the Megalab concept of *using the television audience to create a huge* laboratory, but it never fails to produce watchable fare. One of the experiments being carried out tonight goes to the heart of British legal procedure by looking at how psychology affects the jury system. *Another* exercise, touching on genetics, evolution and *the brain, tries to establish whether left*-handed people are more, or less, talented than right-handers. The natural world is not neglected, however, and there are items about the red squirrel's battle for survival and a contest to see which of *the world's top* robotic mice get the cheese.

Gardeners' World
BBC2, 8.30pm

You never know with Bob Flowerdew, a gardening guru as unconventional as his amazing pigtail. Regular viewers of this programme can hardly forget his idiosyncratic uses for old carpet, discarded *car tyres and derelict freezers. Nothing quite* as eccentric is on view tonight but the man who has turned the recycling of the unwanted into an art form has some handy tips of what to do with the ash from a stove. After that the show settles into a more orthodox pattern as the cheery Alan *Titchmarsh continues to brighten up his* back yard and Roy Lancaster begins the first of four reports on the wild flowers of South Africa. And what could be more solidly traditional than a visit to a National Trust *property?* Peckover House in Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, was laid out in Victorian times and retains its period character.

Doomsday Virus
ITV, 9.00pm (not Northern Ireland)

The disaster movie lives on in this tale of a deadly virus which escapes from a laboratory in Germany and gets on board an American 747 taking holidaymakers back to *New York for Christmas. It is soon clear that* they will be lucky to get there. Hardly has the plane taken off from Frankfurt than the carrier of the strain has croaked his last. All 250 passengers could be dead in 48 hours. To make matters worse, country after country refuses the aircraft landing rights. To make *things even worse*, the CIA comes up with a novel, if extreme, solution. Such is the plot, and plot is mostly what this American mini-series offers. The cast includes Jane Leeves, the English star of *Frasier*, and other faces *familiar from US imports*, but they get so little chance to shine that the roles might just as well have been taken by robots.

Silent Witness: Only the Lonely
BBC1, 9.30pm

Silent Witness is either becoming less gruesome or we are getting used to seeing naked corpses spread out on the slab. This time the stiff is a 28-year-old married woman who has been strangled with her tights. Gillian Richmond's script sets up a classic whodunit. The victim had been *having an* affair, which makes her husband a suspect. But she may have decided to end the relationship, in which case the murder could have been her lover's revenge. But if this *sounds too simple a case to spread over two* episodes. Richmond has other possibilities with which *to tease us. At any rate, the* investigation is a lot more intriguing than the desultory romance between Amanda Burton's buttoned-up pathologist and that dreary policeman or the tiresome subplot about her strange sister. **Peter Waymark**

6.00am GMTV *(6354334)*
9.25 Chain Letters (T) (4282686)
9.55 Regional News (T) (5074773)
10.00 The Time, the Place (52911)
10.30 This Morning (14741222)
12.20pm Regional News (T) (7061889)
12.30 News (T) and weather (6386353)
12.55 Wish You Were Here? *(r)* (T) (6361044) **1.25** Home and Away (T) (47296860) ***1.50*** *Murder, She Wrote (8092889)* **2.50** Get a Life! (5717792)
3.20 News (T) (7505119)
3.25 Regional News *(T)* (2450060)
3.30 Rosie and Jim (6765709) **3.40** Slim Pig (9410402) **3.50** Cartoon Time (9416686) **4.00** Zzzap! (2222131) **4.15** Jumanji (T) (1941131) **4.40** Gladiators. Train 2 Win *(T) (4894266)*
5.10 A Country Practice (5131247)
5.40 News (T) and weather (477808)
6.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (211605)
6.25 HTV Weather (197686)
6.30 HTV News (T) (131)
7.00 Lucky Numbers Game show presented *by Shane Richie (T)* (5421)
7.30 Coronation Street Tricia defends herself against Jack's accusations and gives him an ultimatum, while Alan raises a few eyebrows (T) (315)

Russell Boulter investigates (8.00pm)

8.00 The Bill: Copier DS Boulton (Russell Boulter) investiagte when a woman is attacked soon after moving into her new flat and believes that there could be a link *to an earlier unsolved case (T) (1841)*
8.30 Eye Spy Selina Scott presents more real-life dramas captured on surveillance cameras (T) (8696)
9.00 CHOICE **Doomsday Virus** Gripping, two-part disaster drama about the passengers on a plane learning that they may be carriers of a deadly virus (T) Continues after the news and concludes tomorrow (6860)
10.00 News (T) and weather (31315)
10.30 HTV News (T) (275150)
10.40 Doomsday Virus Continues (T) *(558792)*
11.25 Rugby World Cup Sevens Jim Rosenthal presents highlights of the first day's play in Hong Kong, as England begin their defence of the title. With *analysis from Jonah Lomu and Gavin* Hastings (538173)
12.25am Box Office America (r) (5718025)
1.00 Funky Bunker (57025)
2.00 Club Nation (6169483)
3.00 Shift (2254639)
3.55 Collins and Maconie's Movie Club *(r)* (13880990)
4.35 3-D (r) (T) (36964754)
5.00 Coronation Street *(r) (T)* (38367)
5.30 News

As HTV West except:
12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (6361044)
1.50 Savannah (8001537)
2.45 Breakaways (9846179)
2.50-3.20 Our House (5717792)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (5131247)
6.25-7.00 Central News (579402)
12.25am ITV Sport Classics (7583551)
12.40 Funky Bunker (5714209)
1.40 Baywatch (5090358)
2.30 Cyber Cafe *(63174)*
3.00 Collins and Maconie's Movie Club (14795)
3.30 Dating the Enemy *(8591483)*
4.25 Central Jobfinder '97 (4345700)
5.20 Asian Eye (1251648)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
12.20pm-12.30 Illuminations (7046570)
12.55-1.25 Emmerdale (6361044)
1.50 High Road (11401605)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (5131247)
6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (75247)
12.25am Alfred Hitchcock Presents: Final Escape A woman is sentenced to life imprisonment for a crime she claims she did not commit (5718025)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:
12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (6361044)
1.55 Savannah (8000808)
2.50-3.20 Serve You Right (5717792)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (5131247)
6.00-7.00 Meridian Tonight (75247)
12.25am Alfred Hitchcock Presents (5718025)
4.25 Sound Bites (38355377)
5.00 Freescreen (38367)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except:
12.19pm Anglia Air Watch (7065605)
12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (6361044)
1.55 Savannah (8000808)
2.50-3.20 Dogs with Dunbar (5717792)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (5131247)
6.23 Anglia Weather (198315)
6.25-7.00 Anglia News (579402)
10.29 Anglia Air Watch (346686)
12.25am Alfred Hitchcock Presents (5718025)
4.25 Sound Bites (38355377)

S4C

Starts: 6.00 Sesame Street (90228) **7.00 The *Big Breakfast*** *(47315)* ***9.00 Bewitched*** (41792) **9.30 Ysgolion** (970792) **12.00pm Collectors' Lot** (38228) **12.30 Ellen** (58570) **1.00 Slot Meithrin** (40402) **1.30 The War of the Roses** (57841) **2.00 Racing from Doncaster** (3773) **4.00 Fifteen-to-One** (604) **4.30 Shop Till You Drop** (228) **5.00 5 Pump** (3529) ***5.30 Countdown*** *(808)* **6.00 Newyddion 6** (835334) **6.05 Heno** (222711) ***6.35 Jacpot*** (104976) **7.00 Pobol y Cwm** (332082) **7.25 Y Sioe Gelf** (607179) **8.00 Penclacwydd: Tachwedd - Rhagfyr** (2711) **8.30 Newyddion** (8518) **9.00 Turning World** (4402) **10.00 Brookside** (39957) **10.30 Here's Johnny** (811773) **11.05 The Girlie Show** (635518) **11.35 TFI Friday** (972518) **12.35am Robin** (9553803) **12.40 Flava** (4630803) **1.15 Film: The Manchurian Candidate** (28105716) **3.30 Burnt Out** (9480464) **4.15 Film: The Sniper** (399358) **5.45 Diwedd** (3346551)

6.00 am Sesame Street (90228) **7.00** The Big Breakfast (47315) **9.00** Bewitched (r) (T) *(41792)*
9.30 Schools Eureka! Ancient Greece (T) **9.45** Stop Look Listen (r) (T) **10.00** Fourways Farm (r) **10.10** Summer Term Preview **10.25** Technology **10.40** Off Limits (T) ***11.05*** *The Score* **11.20** Stage One **11.35** Schools at Work **11.40** Living Proof (T) *(970792)*
12.00 The Lost Gardens of Heligan (r) (T) (38228) **12.30pm** Baby It's You (r) (T) *(6/6) (58570)* **1.00** *Ellen (r) (T) (40402)* **1.30** Australia Wild (57841)
2.00 Racing from Doncaster The **2.05, 2.35, 3.10** and **3.40** races (3773)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (604) **4.30** Countdown (T) *(228)* ***5.00*** Ricki Lake (T) (3529) **5.30** Pet Rescue (T) (808)
6.00 TFI Friday The guests include the photographer David Bailey (73889)
7.00 Channel 4 News (T) (781570)
7.55 Black Holes of Science What would it mean if we understood consciousness? (355042)
8.00 The Lost Gardens of Heligan The restoration of the Sundial Gardens, once the finest herbaceous border in England (2/6) (T) (2711)

Vince Earl as Ron Dixon (8.30pm)

8.30 Brookside A remark by Ron (Vince Earl) has terrible consequences for Jackie (Sue Jenkins) (T) (8518)
9.00 Caroline in the City *(T) (7860)*
9.30 Spin City Michael gets into a fierce competition over who can cook the most *meals for the homeless? (T)* (78334)
10.00 Roseanne Roseanne misses the Thanksgiving fun. Shelley Winters makes a guest appearance (T) (39957)
10.30 Here's Johnny Johnny Vaughan meets *Melinda Messenger and Frank Warren* (811773)
11.05 The Girlie Show The guests include *Stan Collymore (635518)*
11.35 TFI Friday (r) (972518)
12.35am Robin (9553803)
12.40 Flava *Soul, R'n'B, hip hop, reggae and* jungle (6/8) (4630803)
1.15 The Manchurian Candidate (1962) with Frank Sinatra, Laurence Harvey, Janet Leigh and Angela Lansbury. Classic *thriller cum political satire, adapted from* Richard Condon's novel about a war hero returning from Korea, who has been brainwashed along with the rest of his platoon by the Chinese who plan to use them in a plot to overthrow the American Government. Directed by John *Frankenheimer (T) (28105716)*
3.30 Burnt Out A couple become stranded in a desert (r) (9480464)
4.15 The Sniper (1952) with Arthur Franz and Adolphe Menjou. A film noir directed by *Edward Dmytryk* (381754)
5.50 Early Morning: Terrytoons (3620648)

● **For more *comprehensive* listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, *published* on Saturday**

SKY 1

6.00am Morning Glory (386624) **9.00** Regis and Kathie Lee *(77889)* ***10.00*** *Another* World (82402) **11.00** Days of Our Lives (48266) ***12.00*** *The Oprah Winfrey Show* (99841) **1.00pm** Geraldo (15889) **2.00** Sally *Jessy Raphael* (60792) **3.00** Jenny Jones (31353) **4.00** The Oprah Winfrey Show (10860) **5.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (7908) **6.00** Real TV (2063) **6.30** Married — with Children (3315) **7.00** The Simpsons (8537) **7.30** M*A*S*H (9599) **8.00** JAG (47402) **9.00** Walker, Texas Ranger (67266) **10.00** High Incident (60353) ***11.00*** *Selina* Scott Tonight (28889) **11.30** Star Trek. The Next Generation (41624) **12.30am** L.A.P.D (62735) **1.00** Hit Mix Long Play (1635025)

SKY 2

7.00pm Beverly *Hills 90210 (6887957)* **8.00** Melrose Place (6676605) **9.00** Pacific Drive (6556841) ***10.00*** *Tales from the Crypt* (80353) **11.00** Late Show (6280131) **12.00** *Hit Mix Long Play* (9080871)

SKY NEWS

Worldwide news coverage, with bulletins on the hour, *24 hours a day*, seven days a week

SKY MOVIES

6.00am A Christmas Romance (1994) (91605) ***6.00 Fury at Smugglers' Bay*** **(1960)** (14608501) **9.45 The Tuskegee Airmen (1995)** (68485268) **12.15pm The Best Little Girl in the World (1981)** (865315) **2.00 Memories of Me (1988)** (837570) **3.50 A Walton Wedding (1995)** (895841) ***5.25*** **The Tuskegee Airmen (1995)** (75707327) **8.00 Street Fighter (1994)** (43686) **10.00 Harrison: Cry of the City (1995)** (768686) **11.40 Cobb (1994)** (59828150) **1.50am Geronimo: An American Legend (1994)** (967532) ***3.45 Out of Darkness* (1990)** (96001754)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am I Walked with a Zombie (1943) (9341266) **7.10 Mademoiselle Fifi (1944)** (9047824) **8.20 Where the Red Fern *Grows: Part 2* (1991)** (55363112) **10.00 The World in His Arms (1952)** (12792) ***12.00* Vengeance of She (1967)** (72537) **2.00pm Dad (1989)** (59247) **4.00 Where the Red Fern Grows: Part 2 (1991)** (3082) **6.00 Eversmile, New Jersey (1989)** (85808) ***7.30 UK Top 10*** *(5537)* **8.00 Mixed Nuts (1994)** (41228) **10.00 Needful *Things* (1993)** *(23334)* **12.00 Dazed *and* Confused (1993)** (162193) **1.45am Freaked (1993)** (588700) **3.15 Out of Annie's Past (1994)** (848803) **4.50 Mademoiselle Fifi (1944)** (5608984)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

6.00pm Moonstruck (1987) (3452773) **8.00 The Trail of the Pink Panther (1982)** (3484518) **10.00 Road House (1989)** (5802841) **12.00 To Live and Die in LA (1985)** (2502377) **1.55am Woman of the Year (1942)** (1437782) **3.50 That's Entertainment! (1974)** (20687261)

TNT

8.00pm WCW Nitro (92755870) **9.00 How the West Was Won (1962)** *(22725082)* **11.35 Battle Beneath the Earth (1967)** (15456063) **1.15am *Man Without a Face*** **(1935)** (33003629) **2.15-5.00 How the *West Was Won* (1962)** (47200193)

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sports Centre (23773) **7.30** Wrestling *(18131)* **8.30** Racing News (56537) **9.00** Sports Centre (47889) **9.30** Aerobics (74421) **10.00** Netbusters (18353) **10.30** Live Golf (92605) **12.30pm** US Golf (82228) **2.30** World Sport Special (7315) **3.00** Live Golf (72518) **4.59** Sports Centre (6738112) **5.00** Inside the Senior PGA Tour (3247) **5.30** Netbusters *(1131)* ***6.00*** *Sports Centre* (60228) **7.00** Live Super League (780131) **9.30** The Rugby *Club (65773)* **10.00** Sports Centre (91247) **11.00** Hold the Back Page *(32421)* **12.00** Wrestling (68648) **1.00am** Super League (22700) **3.00-4.00** Sports Centre (16551)

SKY SPORTS 2

8.00pm Ice Hockey NHL Power Week (4353889) **9.00** Live US PGA Golf Bay Hill (4356976) **11.00-1.00am** European PGA *Golf* (3949711)

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00 Live International Cricket (68279889) **3.30pm** Spanish Football (53264083) **4.30** Schoolboy Football (87417808) **5.30** Snowboard Show (83480066) **6.00** World Surfing Championships (56296421) **7.00** *Live Friday Night Football* (92186989) **10.00-12.00** Wrestling Raw (32974421)

EUROSPORT

7.30am Figure Skating (10599) **8.30** Rugby *World Cup Sevens — Live* (57562518) **11.15** Football (31342518) **1.00** Live Figure Skating (5481650) **9.30** Mighty Man Contest (79179) **10.30** Rugby Sevens (72606) **11.30-12.30** Funsports (81266)

UK GOLD

7.00am Tellystack (6541773) **7.35** Neighbours (9306353) **8.00** Crosswords (1078228) **8.25** EastEnders (8332860) **9.00** The Bill (2884112) **9.30** Bread (2637247) **10.00** Never the Twain (4294808) **10.30** The Sullivans (2813624) **11.00** Rockford Files (6149266) ***12.00*** *Crosswords (2804976)* **12.30pm** Neighbours (2621063) **1.00** EastEnders (6822119) **1.35** Two Ronnies (3136537) **2.30** For the Love of Ada (8212082) **3.00** Goldmaster (4132150) **3.30** The Bill (8291599) **4.00** All Creatures Great and Small (5344889) **5.00** Generation Game (56329889) **6.05** EastEnders (9181042) **6.40** Are You Being Served? (3426150) ***7.20*** *Russ Abbot (7324808)* ***7.50*** Bullseye (6816131) **8.20** In Sickness and in *Health (5536044)* **9.00** The Bill (5333773) **9.30** The Chief (10425421) **10.35** The Best of Top of the Pops (1010063) **11.25 FILM: Phantasm** (9162131) **12.55am FILM: The Undead** (17121144) **2.10** Shopping at Night (50825919)

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am Krypton Factor (2671334) **6.30** Tickle on the Tum (9234773) **6.45** The Magic Ball (15675808) **7.00** Allsorts (4168841) **7.15** Tickle on the Tum (5582605) **7.30** Cavalcade (6634334) **8.00** *Classic Coronation Street (4724421)* ***8.30*** Families (4723790) **9.00** The Professionals (2680082) **10.00** The Grumbleweeds (7829131) **10.30** Cuckoo Waltz (4710028) **11.00** Within These Walls (6543082) **12.00** Classic Coronation Street (4734808) **12.30pm** Families (7692228) **1.00** Albion Market (6514570) **1.30** Good Life Guide (7605599) **2.00** A Piece of Cake (7820860) **3.00** Upstairs, Downstairs (1622334) **4.00** The Doctor Series: In the House (6802792) **4.30** The Grumbleweeds (8868976) **5.00** The Professionals (8949518) **6.00** Families (6849841) **6.30** Classic Coronation Street (6863421) **7.00** The Doctor Series: In the House (6940347) **7.30** The Cuckoo Waltz (6869605) **8.00** Upstairs, Downstairs (7347044) **9.00** Classic Coronation Street (1630353) **9.30** The Comedian (6619792) **10.00-11.00** *The Professionals* (7366695)

David James Elliott in the adventure series *JAG* (Sky 1, 8.00pm)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am [illegible] (3624565) **6.25** Quack Attack (4379660) **6.50** Bonkers (3202534) **7.15** The Little Mermaid (1570421) **7.40** Aladdin (2852131) **8.05** Quack Pack [illegible] **8.30** Timon and Pumbaa [illegible] **8.40** The Care Bears (1353179) **9.10** Groundling Marsh (2772266) **9.40** Big Garage (8448247) **9.55** Lamb Chop's Play Along (9160315) **10.25** Muppet Babies [illegible] ***10.50 Dumbo's*** Circus [illegible] **11.20** Mouse Tracks [illegible] **11.50** Welcome to Pooh Corner (198079[illegible]) **12.20pm** Timon and Pumbaa [illegible] **12.35** The Little Mermaid [illegible] **1.00** Walt Disney Presents [illegible] **1.50** Aladdin (62571957) **2.10** Darkwing Duck (52815063) **2.35** Bonkers (5651599) **3.00** Quack Attack (3788119) **3.25** Timon and Pumbaa (4697800) **3.35** Goof Troop [illegible] **4.00** Timon and Pumbaa [illegible] **4.10** Goof Troop (90345[illegible]) **4.35** Bonkers (5640689) **5.00** Aladdin [illegible] **5.25** Timon and Pumbaa [illegible] **5.35** Darkwing Duck (195792) **6.00** [illegible] **6.30** Timon and Pumbaa [illegible] **6.40 FILM: Ernest Goes to School** [illegible] ***8.10*** *Timon and* Pumbaa [illegible] **8.20-10.00 FILM: Three *Men and a Baby*** [illegible]

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Three Little Ghosts (5035247) **6.30** Inspector Gadget (7236995) **7.00** Samurai Pizza Cats (6204711) **7.30** Power Rangers (6290518) **8.00** Masked Rider (7261860) **8.30** Crocadoo (7260131) **9.00** Rimba's Island (5452082) **9.25** Why Why Family (2958082) **9.30** Zoobilee Zoo (3628570) ***9.55*** *Why Why Family (5732060)* ***10.00*** Rimba's Island (4592727) **10.25** Why Why *Family* (5884889) **10.30** Zoobilee Zoo (93501570) **10.55** Why Why Family (92660334) **11.00** Princess Starla (2729686) **11.30** Pinocchio (2720315) **12.00** Billy the Cat (7271247) **12.30pm** VR Troopers (29724421) **12.50** Power Rangers (29711957) **1.10** Masked Rider (25317537) **1.30** Ace Ventura (6063976) **2.00** Casper (4323889) **2.30** Life with Louie (4063060) **3.00** Eek-Stravaganza (4335624) ***3.30*** *Ace* Ventura (5508155) **4.00** Casper (8889592) ***4.30*** *Power Rangers (4823484)* ***5.00*** Masked Rider (4307841) **5.30** Spiderman (6958846) **6.00** *Goosebumps* (9108119) **6.30-7.00** Sweet Valley High (9908911)

TCC

6.00am Anne of Green Gables/Road to Avonlea (29792) **7.00** Dennis the Menace (94518) **7.30** Dennis the Menace (69763) **8.00** Batman (99266) **8.30** Art Attack (98537) **9.00** Flash Gordon (89889) **9.30** Bobby's World (34583) **10.00** Romuald the Reindeer (47112) **10.30** Robinson Sucroe (78773) **11.00** Danger Mouse (87570) **11.30** Gravedale High (95599) **12.00** Oscar's Orchestra (92353) **12.30pm** Half-*way Across the Galaxy (18889)* ***1.00*** *By the* Way of the Stars (93889) **1.30** Black Beauty *(84080)* **2.00** Girl *from Tomorrow* (8711) **2.30** Ocean Odyssey (3131) **3.00** Art Attack (4518) **3.30** Flash Gordon (5976) **4.00** Batman (7711) **4.30-5.00** Big Dish (3995)

CARTOON NETWORK

Non-stop cartoons from **5.00am** to **9.00pm**. Includes Tom and Jerry, Popeye and The Flintstones

NICKELODEON

6.00am Killer Tomatoes (20895) **6.30** Count Duckula (92315) **7.00** Rocko (9423624) **7.15** Hey Arnold! (6538976) **7.30** Rugrats (33150) **8.00** Doug (55808) **8.30** Arthur (54179) **9.00** Children's BBC (38131) **10.00** Wimzie's House (16995) **10.30** Babar *(34315)* ***11.00*** *Magic School Bus* (72624) **11.30** Henry's Cat/Wil Cwac Cwac/Lizzie's *Library/Topsey and Tim/Jumbo* (73353) **12.00** Bananas in Pyjamas (58995) **12.30pm** Little Bear Stories (83179) **1.00** Children's BBC (20686) **2.00** Dr Seuss (7727) **2.30** Kissyfur (5957) **3.00** Wishbone (9044) **3.30** Stickin' Around (6042) **4.00** Bruno (9537) **4.30** Rugrats (8421) **5.00** *Sister Sister* (1889) ***5.30*** Moesha (9773) **6.00** Press Gang (6686) **6.30-7.00** Doug

TROUBLE

12.00 *Heartbreak High (3645266)* ***1.00pm*** Madison (8138150) **1.30** Sweet Valley High *(2625402)* ***2.00*** *Hangtime (4108711)* **2.30** California Dreams (8207150) **3.00** Byker Grove (4194518) **3.30** No Naked Flames (8219995) **4.00** Sweet Valley High (8298402) **4.30** Hangtime (8294686) **5.00** Saved by the Bell (4199063) **5.30** California Dreams (8218266) **6.00** Byker Grove (8215179) **6.30** Madison (8299131) **7.00-8.00** Heartbreak High (3481792)

BRAVO

8.00pm Robocop (3467112) **9.00** Burning *Zone* (3487976) **10.00** Tour of Duty (3480063) **11.00 FILM: Cruel Passion** (6885808) **1.00am** Burning Zone (5432700) **2.00** Tour of Duty (9529209) **3.00 FILM: Cruel Passion** (2563613) **5.00** Robocop

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm E UK (4353) **7.30** Roseanne (9150) **8.00** Roseanne (7583) **8.30** Monty Python (9808) **9.00** Cheers (52860) **9.30** Taxi (63315) **10.00** Garry Shandling (59624) **10.30** Frasier (35044) **11.00** Collins and Maconie's Movie Club (64605) **11.30** Monty *Python (12179)* ***12.00*** *Nurses (41700)* **12.30am** Soap (67321) **1.00** Cheers (64377) **1.30** Taxi (73434) **2.00** E UK (25551) **2.30** Collins and Maconie's Movie Club (11358) **3.00** Frasier (71613) **3.30-4.00** Garry Shandling (35938)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

1.00am The Twilight Zone (1880209) **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected (3903919) **2.00** 100 Years of Horror (9263303) **2.30** Rod Serling's Night Gallery (9067700) **3.00-4.00** Friday the 13th (5290700)

TLC

9.00am The Joy of Painting (2815082) **9.30** Gardeners' Diary (2635869) **10.00** Two's Country Cooking (4285150) **10.30** Our House (2811266) **11.00** Fix It (5351179) ***11.30*** *This Old House (5352808)* **12.00** Yan Can Cook (2802518) **12.30pm** Graham Kerr (2639605) **1.00** Today's Gourmet (8141624) **1.30** Home Again (2638976) **2.00** Hometime (4188957) **2.30** Furniture to Go (8210624) **3.00** Two's Country (4190792) **3.30-4.00** This Old House

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Rex Hunt (8201976) **4.30** Australia Wild (8290860) **5.00** Treasure Hunters (4102537) **5.30** Beyond 2000 (8281112) **6.00** Wild Things (2647624) **7.00** Invention *(4182773)* **7.30** Wonders of Weather (8208889) **8.00** Jurassica II (3470686) **9.00** Medical Detectives (5331315) **9.30** Science Detectives (2619841) **10.00** Justice Files (3493537) **11.00** Lotus Elise (8128773) **12.00** Battle of the Bulge (8839193) **1.30am-2.00** The Extremists (6848890)

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm Biography: The Queen Mother in Person (8986082) **5.00** The Life and Times of Jesus (3812605) **6.00** China Rising (6144150) **7.00-8.00** Biography: Hunchback (4337841)

CHALLENGE TV

Win with **Prize Time** twice an hour
5.05pm Blockbusters (1867228) **5.50** Spellbound (103711) **6.30** Catchphrase (806191) **7.05** Sale of the Century (144889) **7.40** Give Us A Clue (931402) **8.20** All Clued Up (701452) **9.00** Through the Keyhole (321957) **9.35** Busman's Holiday (216686) **10.05** Treasure Hunt (707711) **11.20** Love at First Sight (269624) **12.00** Sale of the Century (69174) **12.30am** Family Late Hart to Hart (41071) **1.30** Lou *Grant (46716)* **2.30** Christy *(77218)* **3.30** All Together Now (77984) **4.00** The Fall Guy (96209) **5.00** HSN Direct Shopping (99735)

UK LIVING

6.00am Tiny Living (2111518) **9.00** Gladrags and Glamour (3930518) **9.15** The Gordon Elliott Show (8992624) **10.05** Jerry Springer Uncut (4039150) **11.00** The Young and the Restless (8440179) **11.45** Super Fresco Fabulosious (44810773) **11.50** The New Mr and Mrs Show (9959137) **12.25pm** Why Me? Real Life Stories (70143402) ***12.55*** *Tempest! (3738247)* ***1.40*** *Rolonda* (9157860) **2.30** The Agony Experience *(2349044)* ***3.00*** *Live at Three (49748518)* **4.05** The Jerry Springer Show (5732711) **5.00** Super Fresco Fabulosious (37380624) **5.05** Lingo (84404599) **5.30** Lucky Ladders (2343860) **6.00** I Dream of Jeannie (6419841) **6.35** Ready, Steady, Cook (3007860) **7.05** Infatuation UK (1096537) **7.40** Who's Sorry Now? (6015537) **8.05** Rolonda (8322082) **9.00 FILM: Lady Mobster** (3454131) **11.00-12.00** The Sex File (1532112)

ZEE TV

7.00am *Jaagran* ***7.30*** *ZEE Morning* **8.30** Shri Krishna **9.00** Punjabi Folk **9.30** Yaadon Ke Rang **10.00** Chalo Cinema **10.30** Kahkeshan **11.00** Zaike Ka Safar **11.30** Hasratein **12.00** Andaz **12.30pm** Dhoop Aur Chaon **1.00** Tamil **FILM: Neethi Pathi** **4.00** ZEE Zone Presents **4.10** Kamal Kombination **4.45** Saanp Seedi **5.15** Young Buzz **6.00** Beegi Ke Pg **6.30** ZEE and You ***7.00*** *BBCD* ***7.30*** *Ashaa* ***8.00*** *News and* Euronews **8.35** Parampara **9.05-12.00** Hit *Star Season* ***FILM: Geetanjali***

MTV

The 24 hour music channel. Includes news, reviews, live concert footage, interviews and the latest music video charts from Europe and the USA

VH-1

The video hits channel. Classic rock and pop videos and the best new sounds. Includes Ten of the Best and the Vinyl Years

GOLF 44
Baker's resurgence points to uneasy Ryder Cup view

SPORT

ICE SKATING 46
When passion plays role in setting the ice on fire

FRIDAY MARCH 21 1997

United unwrap priceless gift of boredom

Alex Ferguson's masterful game of patience was well worth waiting for, says **Rob Hughes**

When the lights dimmed in Estádio das Antas on Wednesday night, there was pride, professionalism and passion for Manchester United. For the first time since Heysel, in 1985, the English champions are among the final four of Europe. Savour the moment, because their next opponents are Borussia Dortmund, and when England faces Germany in a semi-final the portents are clear to all.

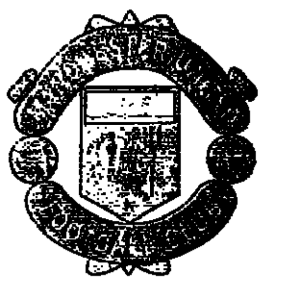
More will be known this afternoon, when lots are drawn to decide whether the first leg will be played in Manchester or Dortmund. It used to be automatic that it was preferable to play the away leg first, yet, given that Alex Ferguson's side created all the tempo, scored all the goals that were necessary against FC Porto in the first leg at Old Trafford, maybe that should be revised.

If United were indeed to be drawn away, and even if they came back undefeated from Dortmund, would they be so committed to attacking football at home, or would they become more tentative with the final beckoning?

Temperamentally, tactically and physically, Dortmund will be a class above the hollow opposition that Porto turned out to be. Perhaps the Portuguese were over-rated, opinion based too much on their triumph over AC Milan and too little on the decline of the former Italian champions.

Yet Ferguson's pride in what his team is achieving is surely justified. Barely six months ago, in Istanbul, he had talked of his team being "so young, there are times when they don't understand what's happening against them. They'll learn."

Indeed they did. By Wednesday they had old heads on young shoulders, ensuring that — no matter what else was happening around them — their rivals on the pitch were nullified. Ferguson, when his team performs, tends to be less effusive in praise of them: "We showed good discipline, but we can play better," he said. "I don't think we played magnificently, but we were comfortable."



He was, in effect, acknowledging that the patience, the waiting game so often inflicted on England, was easily achieved. Boring, you might say, but for the vision of the final mission.

Up above where Ferguson sat, Martin Edwards, the United chairman, had the look of a banker calling in his loan. United's prize-money for getting this far is £6.25 million. Add the gate receipts, another million pounds or so per home game and the galvanising effect on world merchandising, and you are looking at £15 million reaped from this particular European journey.

Yet it never was about money alone. Wilf McGuinness, the former United manager who inherited Matt Busby's mantle, was dancing in the stadium fully half an hour after the final whistle. He would tell anyone who might listen that United had shed the naivety, particularly the defensive simplicity, that cost English clubs so dear over the past decade in Europe.

The team is still evolving, though Keane, Giggs and Beckham have rapidly become as influential as Cantona, and Solskjaer continues to surprise even Ferguson, who bought him from Norway last summer.

Dortmund will be without Matthias Sammer, their leader, their free-flowing *libero*, because he received a second yellow card in Auxerre on Wednesday, but the vastly experienced Stefan Reuter is eligible to return. Dortmund have so many quality players in so many parts of the field that 12 of their players have hit the target in this European campaign.

No one, not even Juventus, can remotely match such a statistic. They now meet Ajax, whom they beat in the final last May, and whose recuperation after so many injuries and so many players lost under the Bosman ruling, means that it is Europe or nothing this time.

One of the Ajax scorers in a tumultuous victory over Atlético Madrid on Wednesday was Dani. Remember him? They just might at Upton Park, for he is the Portuguese midfield player who could not make the grade for West Ham United.

Dani, profiting among players such as the De Boer twins and the rejuvenated Jari Litmanen, has scored three goals for Ajax in the Champions' League ... quality finds its level in this competition.

Hoddle plans for the future

Butt recruited for England's youth brigade

By Rob Hughes, Football Correspondent

TERRY VENABLES had them by the dozen; Glenn Hoddle has waited and waited for the opportunity of a friendly international match in which he might experiment. Yesterday, announcing a squad of 25 players for the match at Wembley against Mexico, on Saturday March 29, the England coach began to ring some changes.

Nicky Butt is included in the party, as well as David Beckham, a potential refit made at Old Trafford, harnessing the vision of Beckham in the playmaker role that so many believe his potential demands, and giving him the understanding and the tenacity of his Manchester United colleague.

This, indeed, may be the crux of Hoddle's forward thinking. Butt, 22, and already honoured with the captaincy of the under-21 side, could be the future, the fire to replace that of Ince, once it cools. Ince needs both an understudy and someone to ensure that he is on his mettle.

At the start of the World Cup qualifying matches, Ince had mused that it was up to experienced people like him — indeed, he also included Gascoigne in this statement — to show the discipline, the maturity, the leadership to younger players coming through for their country.

The youth brigade, whom Hoddle may well promote in England's cause, is burgeoning. Sol Campbell and Dominic Matteo, are the same age as Butt and a little older than Beckham and Robbie Fowler, though all of them were left standing, in terms of precocity, by Gary Neville. He, quite superb in the cautionary tactics employed by Manchester United in Oporto on Wednesday night, is also 22, but has 17 full caps to his name. The impetuosity, the recklessness in the tackle that once betrayed him, seems to be smoothing out.

Another youthful possibility is to call upon the the Liverpool triumvirate of Steve McManaman, who is, of course, almost an England old timer by comparison, Jamie Redknapp and Fowler.

There are suspicions that Redknapp, with his appetite to link the play and his passing ability, is a pivotal player in the mind of Hoddle. He may even eventually be recast as Redknapp the central defender, the potential Matthias Sammer for England; playing as a *libero*, reading the game from the rear, but turning defence into instant attack, with elegance.

It is some role, requiring some vision, but a host of professional managers believe Redknapp's potential is as yet untapped. And Fowler? In this match against Mexico, when the result is not paramount, surely the young, prolific goalscorer will be given his full elevation to lead the national attack?

It may not happen. There are club games aplenty before March 29, and even in these days when a doctor's sick note is mandatory, do not bet against a decimation of Hoddle's chosen contingent.

Of course, there are absentees before even a squad is contemplated. Seaman, Gascoigne, Merson, Shearer and Ferdinand are injured; Pearce is rested. Hoddle aware that the demands of player-management are extreme, not least when Pearce is trying to save the FA Carling Premiership status of his club, Nottingham Forest. There are no such caveats about the omission of Platt, who is fit for Arsenal, but silently slipping past his prime for England. A prolific and wonderfully industrious contribution he has made, but time waits for no former England captain.

It does, however, recall two players whose England times seemed to be history. At last, for many of us who think that Nigel Martyn is the form goalkeeper, the Leeds player is selected by Hoddle, even if it has the ring of the closing of the stable door after Ian Walker's unfortunate debut in the home defeat that mattered, against Italy, at Wembley. There is, more surprisingly, a recall to international arms for Martin Keown, the combative Arsenal defender. The England coach said yesterday that Keown, at 30, one of the youngsters around Highbury, is improving dramatically on the ball; the hidden tribute is that Arsène Wenger, Hoddle's mentor at Monaco, is smoothing some rugged edges.

And then there are Hoddle's acts of faith. He selects Darren Anderton, trusting that the Tottenham Hotspur player is for once fit to fulfil his gifts. He chooses Nick Barmby, even though Everton have not revived that little player's form. And there is Matthew Le Tissier. The scapegoat of so many for the misapplied tactics and selection against Italy, Le Tissier remains synonymous with Hoddle's concept of how football should be played — a player of flair, perhaps of mood, but ultimately of skill, if the coaches dare trust it.

Earlier this week, Graeme Souness, the Southampton manager, only half trusted his captain in the club's dire need to win football matches. Hoddle, one presumes, will go all the way with Le Tissier, proving that belief has to be stubborn, and trying to demonstrate that both player and England coach were right all along. I hope Mexico is the starting point for that.

SQUAD

I Walker (Tottenham), D James (Liverpool), T Flowers (Blackburn), N Martyn (Leeds Utd); G Neville (Man Utd), G Le Saux (Blackburn), G Southgate (Aston Villa), A Adams (Arsenal), S Campbell (Tottenham), D Matteo (Liverpool), G Pallister (Man Utd), M Keown (Arsenal); P Ince (Internazionale), D Beckham (Man Utd), S McManaman (Liverpool), D Batty (Newcastle Utd), M Le Tissier (Southampton), R Lee (Newcastle), D Anderton (Tottenham), J Redknapp (Liverpool); N Barmby (Everton), R Fowler (Liverpool), I Wright (Arsenal), N Butt (Man Utd), E Sheringham (Tottenham).

MARC ASPLAND

Hoddle keeps faith with Le Tissier, despite criticism after his performance in the match against Italy

Ginola to be given transfer at end of the season

By David Maddock

GIVEN Newcastle United's performance in their Uefa Cup debacle against Monaco on Tuesday night, it was hardly surprising to hear yesterday that David Ginola, the France international winger, had asked for a transfer. It emerged, however, that the request was submitted before their ill-fated journey.

When Ginola presented his request last week, it was politely but firmly declined by the club. The Frenchman will not be allowed to leave until the end of the season, when Kenny Dalglish will begin the daunting process of rebuilding his shattered side.

Ginola was still in France yesterday, given a few days off training to spend time in a new home he has built in the countryside between Monaco and Marseilles, which is perhaps an indication of his likely destination next season.

The Frenchman has now come to an uneasy truce with Dalglish and has agreed not to rock the boat until the end of this season, when his request will be met.

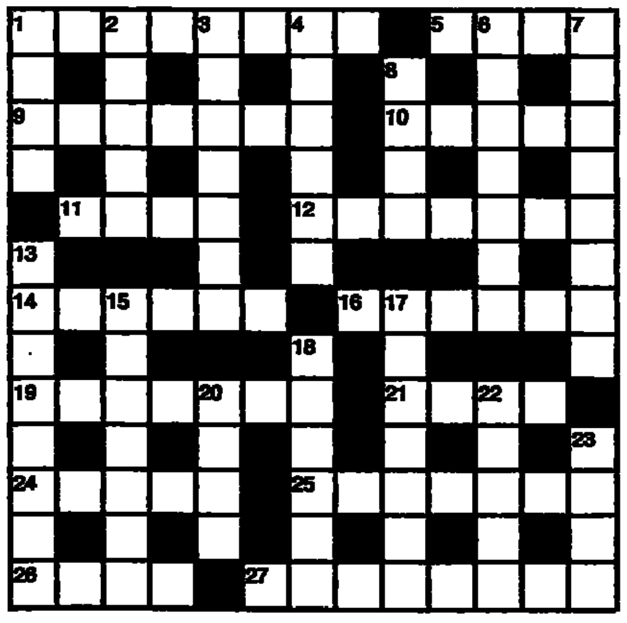
If Ginola is ready to leave Newcastle in the summer, then Peter Beardsley has decided to play on despite a suggestion he may take up a coaching position with the club next season. "There are 15 months left on my contract and I'll be starting again next season, trying to win a place in the team," he said.

Middlesbrough have been presented with a thorny problem days before their Coca-Cola Cup final with Leicester City. Juninho, the Brazil international and midfield inspiration for the Teesside club, has been called up by his country for an international match against Chile on April 2, just four days before the final at Wembley.

Juninho is certain to travel home for the match, which will present his last opportunity to force his way into the reckoning for a place in the Brazil squad for the World Cup finals next season, as the national coach, Zagallo, has indicated he will bring the squad together a year before the tournament.

Middlesbrough's problem is that Juninho will return, jet-lagged, on the Friday before the game and they must be worried about the state he will return in.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1047

ACROSS
1 Queer, strange (8)
5 Quit; halt (4)
9 Quake, shiver (7)
10 Quid note (5)
11 Quiz, examination (4)
12 Quips; sudden charges (7)
14 Quid pro quo (6)
16 Qualification, proviso (6)
19 Quota, share (7)
21 Quieten (4)
24 Quick (5)
25 Quisling (7)
26 Queue (4)
27 Quarter, mercy (8)

DOWN
1 Play across green (4)
2 El Greco birthplace (5)
3 Crustacean, had Quadrille (7)
4 Opposed, loth (6)
6 Of the sense of touch (7)
7 One living off another (8)
8 Prevent; stooge (4)
13 Suggestion, plan (8)
15 Act of twisting; state of being twisted (7)
17 Warm public praise (7)
18 Gradually introduce (idea) (6)
20 Tiny bit; Greek *I* (4)
22 Language of Horace (5)
23 Quarry (4)

The solution to 1046 will be published Wednesday, March 26

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Bournemouth are granted last chance

By Andrew Longmore

BOURNEMOUTH, the beleaguered Nationwide League second division club, has been granted one final chance to sort out the financial problems that have brought it close to extinction.

At a Chancery Court hearing in Liverpool yesterday, Judge Michael Howarth agreed to adjourn a winding-up order brought against the club by the Inland Revenue.

The club now has a precious two months to attract new investors and restructure total debts that now stand at over £4.4 million.

But, in rejecting the winding-up order, the sixth brought against the club, the judge warned that the £300,000 needed to pay the Inland Revenue would have to be in place by the time of the next hearing on May 15. "The Inland Revenue has waited long enough for its money. This is the club's last chance," he said.

The news was greeted with delight by fans of the club, who had gathered outside Dean Court fearing the worst.

But Bournemouth are a long way from being out of the wood, though they can now complete their remaining fixtures for the season.

Alan Lewis, the Receiver sent in by Lloyds Bank, which is owed £2.1 million, emerged from the hearing to say that he hoped to sell the club to one of two interested investors by the appointed date. "The club's fate is now in the hands of the trust fund, which is one of those attempting to take it over," Lewis said. "We may need to sell a player by the transfer deadline next week."

☐ The future of Stevenage, the Vauxhall Conference champions, was left up in the air yesterday after a Football Association disciplinary panel failed to reach a verdict over allegations that the club asked for a £30,000 'bung' from Torquay United. A decision is expected late next week.

Berti and Bassett may join forces

By Richard Hobson

NICOLA BERTI could be the next Italian international to join the exodus from Serie A to English football. He will be released by Internazionale at the end of the season and his agent, Claudio Pasqualini, held talks with representatives of Nottingham Forest earlier this week.

Dave Bassett, the Forest general manager, and Irving Scholar, the club's football consultant, watched Inter beat Anderlecht in the Uefa Cup in the San Siro stadium on Tuesday night and met Pasqualini the following morning. Under the Bosman ruling, no fee will be involved. However, any deal is likely to hinge on whether Forest manage to avoid relegation from the FA Carling Premiership.

Berti, 29, a midfield player, has won 39 caps and played against Brazil in the 1994 World Cup final. He has been injured and missed selection for the European Championships last year.

Forest, who have completed the loan signing of Brian O'Neill, the Scotland international midfield player from Celtic, are undeterred by the failure of Andrea Silenzi, their previous signing from Italy. Silenzi scored just twice after his £1.8 million arrival from Torino in 1995 and was loaned to Venezia for the remainder of this season last October.

Brian Little, the Aston Villa manager, has confirmed his interest in Roy Makaay, the Holland international striker, but dropped a strong hint that he will not make a signing before the transfer deadline. Makaay, 22, is unlikely to leave Vitesse Arnhem until the summer.

Sky TV have secured the rights to screen England's vital World Cup clash against Italy. The World Cup qualifying tie, to be played in Rome on Saturday October 11, will be the final match in England's campaign for the 1998 World Cup finals.

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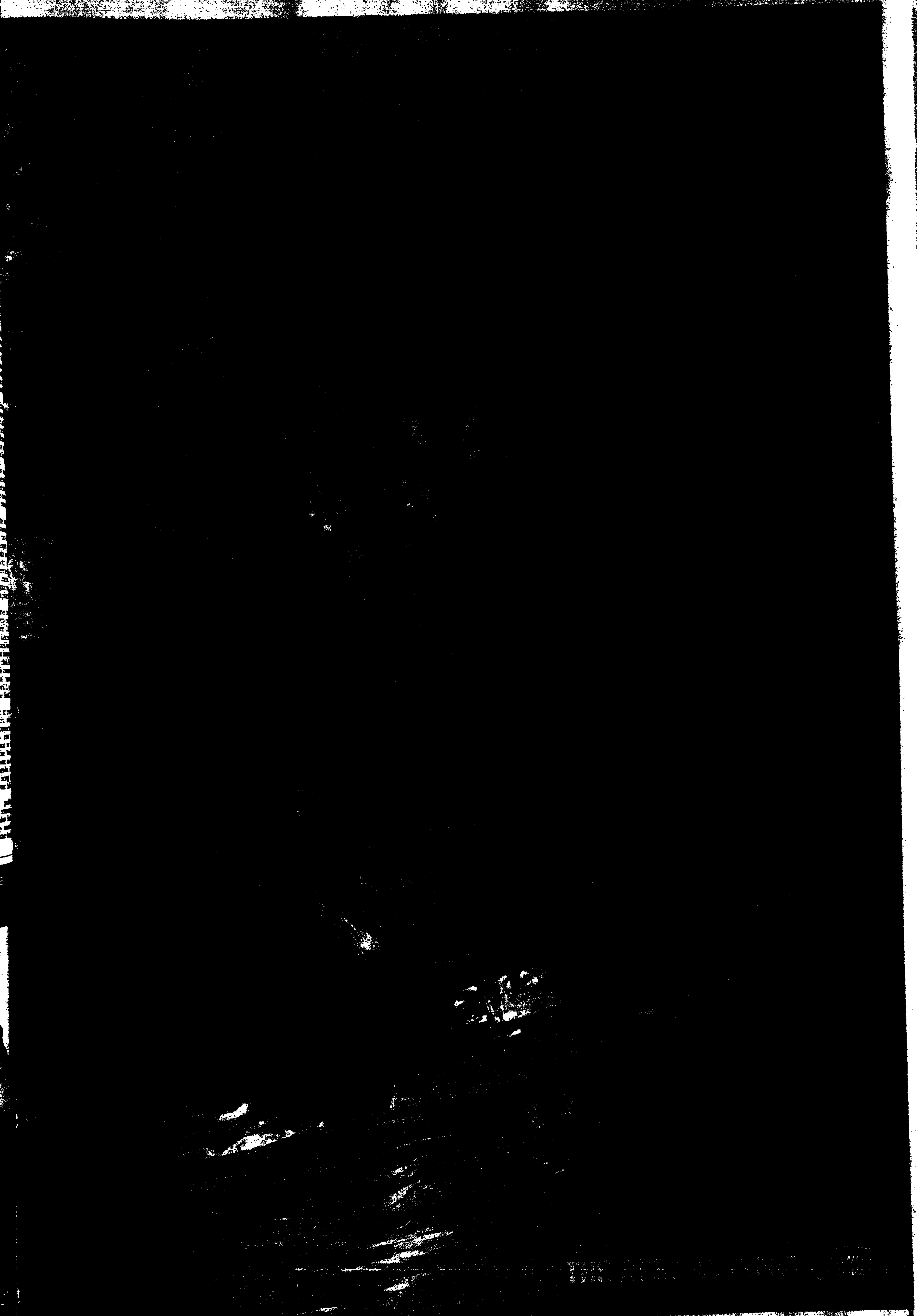

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Mobutu calls for national council as rebels plan polls

FROM SAM KILEY IN KINSHASA AND SUSAN BELL IN PARIS

CORINNE DUFKA / REUTER

Civilians in Kisangani welcome Zaire rebel leaders who plan to organise political meetings and hold elections for local officials within a week

ZAIRE'S ailing President Mobutu last night called for a ceasefire and the creation of a national council to resolve the crisis in his country.

Laurent Kabila, the rebel leader, has said that he will agree to a ceasefire only after negotiations with the President on how the Zairean leader, who seized power in 1965, will step down. Rebels now occupy more than a fifth of the country, and captured its third largest city, Kisangani, on Saturday, raising fears of a coup in Kinshasa, the capital.

Mr Mobutu was expected to fly home from France today to try to resolve the political crisis, which is veering from absurdist drama to dangerous farce. His son, Nzanga Mobutu, also the President's spokesman, said that his father no longer ruled out talks with the leaders of the rebellion, but wished first to discuss the issue with political and military leaders in Kinshasa. Previously the President had said he intended to crush the rebels. It was not clear if a ceasefire remained a prior condition for starting negotiations.

Nzanga Mobutu also denied reports that members of his family had fled to the Congo. Close family members were still with President Mobutu in France or had remained in France, he said.

The President left hospital in Monaco, where he has been receiving treatment after surgery for prostate cancer, on Wednesday to return to his luxury Riviera villa at Roquebrune-Cap Martin. His private plane has been on standby at Nice airport since Tuesday evening.

Yesterday his opponents and enemies jostled for positions in a collapsed Government while the rebels began organising elections in areas they control.

The Union for Democracy and Social Progress, the main opposition party in Kinshasa that has failed to make an impact on Mr Mobutu's regime over the past six years, attempted simultaneously to ally itself with the eastern rebels and with the President.

Paris: France, President Mobutu's staunchest supporter, yesterday urged its citizens to leave Zaire (Susan Bell writes). It sent aircraft and about 100 troops to neighbouring Congo and Gabon in case it had to protect or evacuate an estimated 1,500 French nationals in Zaire.

Sitting in his garden under a mango tree Adrien Phongo, the party Secretary-General, yesterday announced that he was sending a delegation to open talks with Mr Kabila. "These should lead to a ceasefire and a government of national unity which will then organise elections," Dr Phongo said.

Then, as news that President Mobutu was expected to return to Kinshasa filtered through, his bold rhetoric crumbled. With the look of a child caught opening his parents drinks' cabinet, Dr Phongo scrambled to ensure a secure future — should Zaire's big man regain control. "Of course, only the President can empower a prime minister," he said.

The President's wizardry has been eclipsed by the rebels' successes that were yesterday being cemented with the organising of elections behind their lines for local administrative posts. In seven communes leaders will be chosen who will, in turn, elect a mayor and provincial governor.

Mwanze Kongolo, the rebel justice commissioner, said: "We are here to give them power denied them for so long. That is the basic message we have and to illustrate it, we will have visible, but not perfect, elections."

Before he fell ill this is the sort of challenge Mr Mobutu would have relished. In the past 32 years he has run Zaire as his personal fiefdom, seeing off countless rebellions and invasions, with the help of France, Morocco and Belgium. But, since the uprising his main concerns have been his health and family.

His army, unpaid and under-equipped, has consistently given ground to the rebels. But, in common with his Opposition, Mr Mobutu has appeared unable to grasp that the rebels have the upper hand.

American State Department officials and diplomats in Kinshasa said yesterday that Mr Mobutu and his entourage appeared to be "in denial" over the extent and threat of the rebellion. "They really don't seem to understand that Mobutu is not going to be able to come back and wave the magic fly whisk and bam — Kabila disappears," said a European ambassador.

Leon Kengo wa Dondo, Zaire's Prime Minister, was "removed" by parliamentarians earlier this week under pressure from the army, which blamed him for the theft of funds intended for the war effort. But yesterday he returned from regional talks in Nairobi insisting that he was in charge of the bankrupt administration.

Man charged with Oklahoma bombing 'had Klan links'

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

TIMOTHY McVEIGH, in the most detailed account of his alleged role in the Oklahoma City bombing, has told his lawyers that his harsh anti-government sentiments first found expression as a member of the Ku-Klux-Klan.

A fortnight before his trial opens in Denver, the chief suspect in America's worst act of terrorism is reported to have told his defence team that he joined the white supremacist organisation in 1992 shortly after being discharged from the army.

Based on statements given to the lawyers, the *New York Post* said yesterday that three years later and five days before his 27th birthday, Mr McVeigh drove a yellow Ryder van packed with explosives to Oklahoma City.

The next day he parked the van outside the Alfred Murrah building and detonated the device. The explosion ripped through the federal building, killing 168 adults and children and injuring more than 500 people in the vicinity.

The latest account of Mr McVeigh's involvement comes after a series of reported "confessions" in the *Dallas Morning News* and *Playboy* which resulted in demands by his lawyers that the trial should be postponed and moved to another venue. They said it would be impossible to select a fair jury in the circumstances.

Richard Matsch, the judge trying the case, ruled that jury selection will start in Denver as planned on Easter Monday despite an almost daily crop of articles which have done little to convince America that either Mr McVeigh, or his co-defendant, Terry Nichols, can hope for a non-partisan panel of potential jurors.

Cartoon attracts Asian-American fire

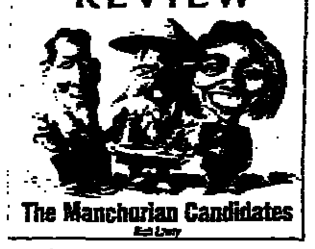
FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

A CONFIDANT of Baroness Thatcher has been accused of anti-Asian racism after he published a magazine cartoon lampooning President Clinton's links to Chinese money.

John O'Sullivan, an expatriate British journalist who helped the former Prime Minister with her memoirs and who now edits the right-of-centre New York magazine *National Review*, commissioned a front-cover illustration for his publication's latest issue.

The cartoon promoted an article about the Clinton Administration's ill-fated involvements with Asian supporters such as John Huang, James Riady and officials from Beijing. It depicted a toothy Mr Clinton in a Chinese farmer's hat, holding a tray of tea, beside a Mrs Clinton dressed as Madame Mao. Vice-President Al Gore, who has been accused of illegally accepting political donations at a Buddhist temple, appeared in the cartoon as a monk, holding a tin of cash. The caption read: The Manchurian Candidates.

Asian-American pressure groups saw an outrageous slur. Their reaction says much for the way some Asian-Americans would like the White House donations scandal to go: towards victimhood. The National Asian Pacific Legal Consortium, a lobbying outfit which can perhaps be described as a garlic and ginger group, attacked the cartoon as "incredibly offensive", pointing to its "buck-teeth and grotesque faces".



The cover: "no chance of an apology"

Daphne Kwok, director of the Organisation of Chinese Americans, demanded an apology from Mr O'Sullivan and his publisher, the veteran right-wing campaigner William Buckley.

"We find the cover extremely offensive and racist," said Ms Kwok. "There's an inability to distinguish between Asians and Asian-Americans, foreigners and US citizens. It is reminiscent of the caricature made of the Chinese in the 1800s."

The Asian-American Journalists' Association said that with the tea tray *National Review* had portrayed "Asians as servants of America". The Asian-American Legal Defence and Education Fund insisted that the cartoon suggested that Chinese Communists were brainwashing Washington.

Mr O'Sullivan reacted to the criticism with a zest which Lady Thatcher might recognise: "They have not a snowball's chance in hell of an apology." He called the charges "vile and slanderous" and detected "an orchestrated campaign by the Ethnic Grievance Industry".

The magazine has received many angry letters, said Mr O'Sullivan. He added: "The cover was a fine example of the political caricature that has been a glory of American debate since Thomas Nast."

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Australia offers Papua its own army trainers in place of £20m hired soldiers

Mercenaries' contract is suspended to halt riots

FROM NOEL PASCOE IN PORT MORESBY AND ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

PORT MORESBY, the capital of Papua New Guinea, yesterday slid towards anarchy with rioting and looting while Sir Julius Chan, the Prime Minister, last night sought to ease tensions by suspending the reported £20 million contract with a British mercenary force.

One looter was decapitated when he was tackled by a knife-wielding security guard, and two people were injured as army and police fired on each other.

Hooligans, meanwhile, took advantage of the unrest to carry away the contents of a supermarket; they then took refuge in a downtown barracks when police and military confronted them and fired teargas and live ammunition into the air to make them withdraw.

Sir Julius said the contract would be suspended until allegations of corruption were investigated in an agreement which Brigadier-General Jerry Singirok — the sacked Defence Force commander — said could eventually cost the state £75 million.

The Australian Government urged an end to the mercenary contract and offered to replace the security firm, Sandline International, with an Australian Army force of trainers, according to diplomatic sources.

A number of the British mercenaries have left Papua New Guinea over the past few days, and Tim Spicer, the Sandline chief executive, was freed from four days' arrest in a Port Moresby barracks.

Two men, one of them said to be a relative of Sir Julius, were arrested near the barracks. One was said to be armed with a 9mm German pistol with two magazines of ammunition, the other was said to have a loaded and cocked pistol in his possession. Sources said the second man was employed by Network International, a firm linked to the Prime Minister's family.

British diplomats in Port Moresby were still trying to make contact with a second executive of Sandline, said Brian Baldwin, the British Deputy High Commissioner. The intervention of the British High Commission follows concern by executives of Sandline International in London for the safety of their men. Mr Spicer, a former lieutenant-colonel in the Scots Guards, has extensive military experience in the Falklands, Bosnia, Cyprus, the Gulf War and Northern Ireland, for which he was awarded an OBE.

"We know Spicer was being held by some of the Papua New Guinea defence forces who remain loyal to the previous commander, Brigadier-General Jerry Singirok," Mr Baldwin explained. "But that's as far as we have got. We have not been able to make any progress in getting hold of him and talking to him."

At least five soldiers were seriously injured in the rioting, which prompted junior ranks to try to gain entry to a nearby weapons arsenal. But they were prevented from doing so by other officers.

A petition signed by more than 4,700 soldiers — almost the whole army — demanded the immediate reinstatement of General Singirok, who was sacked for urging the expulsion of the mercenaries. The general is urging a political solution to the crisis and says that he will accept his sacking as long as it is proven to be legal and constitutional.

"Papua New Guinea is not a banana republic," he said. "It has a democracy and a constitution." He said he began his revolt because the mercenaries were about to launch a "military onslaught" on copper-rich Bougainville, 560 miles northeast of the capital.

General Singirok told a press conference that the contract with the mercenaries had been pushed against his advice and that of department heads. He said that one of the reasons he had not agreed with the contract was because of the "historical performance of Sandline and Executive Outcomes" in Third World countries. He could not understand how the Government could spend so much money on an international company with "serious credibility problems".

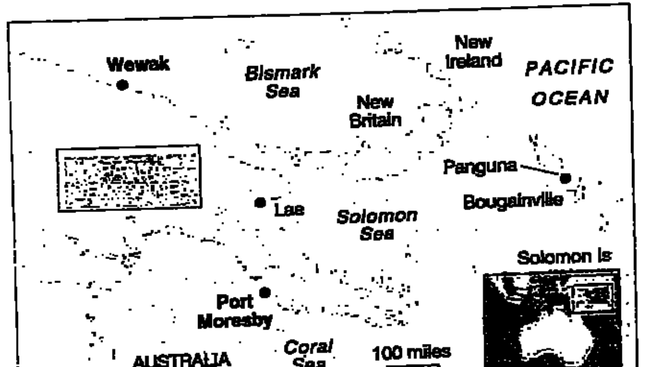
They were hired, he said, at a cost of nearly £20 million to help to end the seccessionist conflict on Bougainville which has been waged for the past nine years.

What happens next may well depend on a demonstration by military opponents of the Prime Minister. The scale of the protest, which has been planned to take place this morning, will provide a guide to the level of continuing opposition to Sir Julius, whose position has been severely undermined by the events of the past few days.

RICK RYCROFT / AP

Looters run from a Port Moresby supermarket after police and the military had fired teargas and live ammunition to scare them off

Singirok: petition demands his return



Chefs in a stew over £36,000 banquet

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN CAPE TOWN

MORE than 100 guests paying 250,000 rands (£36,000) a couple descended on Robben Island last night for a fundraising banquet at which they rubbed shoulders with President Mandela, Hillary Clinton, Bill Cosby, the actor, and Kofi Annan, the United Nations Secretary-General.

The guests travelled by helicopter or ferry across the five miles of sea from Cape Town to the tiny island where Mr Mandela spent 18 of his 27 years in prison. Earlier in the day, Mrs Clinton had been escorted by Mr Mandela on a tour of the prison and his cell; they were followed later by Mr Cosby.

In January, the island was declared a national monument and proceeds of the evening will go to the island museum and political prisoners' fund, launched by Mr Mandela in October after a reunion of former political prisoners showed that many had fallen on hard times.

Last night the guests dined on salmon and trout tartare with cucumber salad, followed by beef consommé with chicken dumplings, stuffed baby chicken served with wild rice, topped off with fruit sorbet.

It seems unlikely that such an event will be staged again. Distressed caterers from a Cape Town firm spoke about how they endured three unhappy days on the choppy waters shipping across crockery, cutlery, food and glasses. Yesterday afternoon disaster struck when a minibus to be used to ferry guests around the island plunged into the sea after coming loose from the helicopter airlifting it in.

After the incident the banquet organisers decided not to ship the second one, just in case. "It has been totally chaotic," Jason Lasker, 31, the head chef, said. "It has only been three days, but I am a nervous wreck."

Macau cyanide alert after river accident on Chinese border

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

A LORRY loaded with 200 drums of sodium cyanide, used in electroplating, skidded into the West River which feeds into the Pearl River delta in Guangdong province.

The people of Macau, fearing pollution, were drinking bottled water last night. In the Portuguese colony and in Hong Kong produce from across the border in China was being scrutinised.

At first it was reported that ten drums, each weighing 50 kg, had burst and several were missing. Authorities in Wuzhou, the town on the Guangdong-Guangxi border where the spillage occurred, now say all the drums have been recovered and only one had burst. Chinese authorities tend to minimise the scale of serious accidents.

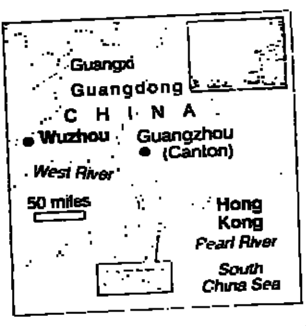
The West River flows into the Pearl from which Macau draws much of its drinking water. By now this would have shown cyanide traces: 0.6 grams of cyanide are lethal. Hong Kong's water comes from a different branch of the Pearl, which does not take in West River water.

The delta is also the source of many of the vegetables and shellfish imported into Macau and Hong Kong. In Macau, health officials say the local reservoirs are safe, but sales of bottled water have doubled.

Although the Chinese authorities insist they alerted residents along the West River and ordered police to warn against using the water, reporters say that local people either did not know of the danger or were ignoring it, continuing to draw drinking water from it, washing their clothes along its banks and fishing.

Fisherman said that if the fish had been affected they would have floated to the surface.

Officials in Wuzhou said the water there contained only safe traces of cyanide.



Cuba offer to Lima guerrillas

BY GABRIELLA GAMINI SOUTH AMERICA CORRESPONDENT

PRESIDENT Castro of Cuba has offered political asylum to the 18 marxist Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement rebels holding 72 hostages at the Japanese Ambassador's residence in Lima, the Peruvian capital.

The offer came yesterday after Señor Castro met a Japanese government envoy who appears to have sought his help to try to solve the 94-day siege. Masahiko Kamura, the Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister, arrived in Havana on Wednesday with a letter from Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Japanese Prime Minister.

Earlier in the week Mr Kamura had visited Lima, where negotiations between the hostage-takers and Peru's Government remained at a stalemate amid heightening concerns over the hostages' health.

Señor Castro yesterday said he hoped his offer would "speed up" negotiations to end the crisis. But the guerrillas have so far rejected various "safe passage" offers. Their leader, Nestor Cerpa Cartolini, 45, has also reiterated the rebels' demand for the release of more than 400 comrades currently in Peruvian jails.

Peru's President Fujimori has said all along that he would never accede to the rebels' demands.

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Helicopter gunships shadow dawn mission across mountains to answer SOS

Secret operation by special forces rescues orphans

Anthony Loyd reports how he left Tirana in a borrowed car to help to save 22 children at a British-run orphanage

John Smith from Swansea holds one of the Albanian orphans rescued from Elbasan in a mission by a team of British special forces

WHAT ended in the dramatic special forces rescue of the staff and children of a beleaguered British-run orphanage in southern Albania began for *me with a strange phone* call on Wednesday evening. As I ate supper in a hotel in Tirana a waitress handed me a mobile phone. The voice on *the other* end was that of a British major I had met in the army ten years ago.

"Hello," he said, "have you got a car and might you be able to drive it for us?" I said I would see what I could do.

There were several problems. *First I had no* car and would have to acquire one — difficult as it was curfew in a capital already tense after the unrest of the past two weeks. A *loyal friend* asked few questions and instead gave me the keys and documents to her rented Hertz car, a four-door Volvo.

Two men appeared in the foyer cradling holdalls and dressed in civilian clothes, and after picking up a couple more men, we arrived at the British Embassy. "Got life insurance, have you?" asked one soldier *grinning. It was about* all I had got — even the Volvo's fuel tank was as good as empty.

The group introduced themselves by their first names and the major explained the problem. I had guessed the logistical situation must have been fairly desperate if they needed to call in a journalist with a borrowed car, but I could never have guessed how *fraught with difficulties their* mission was.

In the last three days the situation in southern and eastern Albania had deteriorated rapidly. Following an ultimatum by rebels for President Berisha to resign by yesterday or face possible attack in Tirana, many provincial towns, some of them previously untouched by violence, became torn by gangland fights.

In Elbasan, 38 miles south of Tirana, the situation had become especially bad. The vendetta killing of a youth in the town on Tuesday had acted as a catalyst for escalating violence in which the police, equipped with tanks and apparently loyal to no outside authority, joined an internecine fight among local mafia gangs whose arsenal had been supplemented with captured military weapons.

There was an orphanage for 22 Albanian children in the centre of it all, run by a British couple, Mike and Judy Smith, *together with a Dutch lady* Joanda Van Sloten and a small Albanian staff. The orphans included victims of child abuse and the aban*doned offspring of prostitutes* and emigrants. The eldest child was eight years old, the youngest, three months.

Though the Smiths, who *have been in Albania for four* years, had last week rejected the offer of evacuation — as they wanted to remain with their charges — the sudden worsening of the situation made their position untenable. By Wednesday evening the town was degenerating into anarchy, with bullets from gun battles striking the orphanage walls. The Smiths rang the British Embassy in Tirana at 8.30pm and asked for help.

The mission was cleared by London, leaving the tiny group of British soldiers in the embassy with the unenviable task of getting into Elbasan by dawn, and out again safely to Tirana with 22 children, three expatriate staff and four Albanian girls. The troops had two *vehicles at their disposal*, a Land Rover and a mini-bus: hence the need for the rented Volvo.

We were to go in at dawn in *the three cars, reach the* orphanage, fill our vehicles and two additional ones owned by the Smith's with the staff and children, and drive out again for the 90-minute *journey* back through the contested zone to Tirana. Two British Chinook helicopters, *converted to gunships*, waited among hills near Elbasan as a Quick Reaction Force to deal with any opposition and to airlift us out if the road option *failed. Although the stakes* seemed enormous, there was no alternative: the clock was ticking against the orphans' fortunes.

> ❛ Although the stakes still appeared to be enormous, there was simply no alternative ❜

A soldier took me aside and briefed me on the use of their weapons and equipment, which I remembered from my army service, in case push came to shove.

We departed at 5am. "If I buy it, for God's sake tell my wife I never loved her," one of the soldiers *joked* as we moved off, snaking southwards into the darkness along a crumbling road that climbed through dense fog and forest. At one point, a *large Albanian* police convoy emerged through the murk towards us. But it passed us without incident. As dawn shed its first *light we broke through* the mist. Elbasan *lay beneath* us in a waterlogged valley.

The early hour, driving rain and cold had lent us advantage. Yet as we *entered* the town, the veneer of peace was punctured by the sight of tanks marked "Police", stationed at road junctions on the empty streets; and soon the distant sound of automatic fire rippled into the quiet.

"You people certainly get some jobs," said Judy Smith as we backed the vehicles into the orphange's courtyard and the troops, jackets concealing chest webbing, moved off to guard the building. *Tiny* figures walked out into the daylight, grinning at the newly arrived men as the staff flustered around them pulling *jackets over childrens' obsti*nate arms.

"It's got worse and worse here," Judy Smith added. "It began last week and then *quietened until two days ago* when the fighting started again. Bullets have been spraying around us."

With minimal fuss the child*ren and staff were loaded into* the vehicles. We pulled out of the gates, now a convoy of five, and headed back out of the wakening town *before its* people realised the presence of the strangers *among* them.

I turned to look past the soldier beside me at the backseat of the Volvo: *four small* faces met my gaze, the arm of a young Albanian child minder around their shoulders. None of them looked back at *the town.*

The helicopters shadowed our route, finally lifting away as we entered Tirana. The embassy road was as deserted *as when we left it little over* three hours previously.

"Smooth one," a soldier said, as the major entered the room. Another trooper entered *looking worried. "Er, Boss,"* he said. "Two of those kids upstairs ... they need their nappies changing".

Leading article and letters, page 21

Children are 'last Britons to leave'

By Anthony Loyd

BRITISH special forces backed by helicopters yesterday mounted a successful operation to snatch 29 children and staff from an orphanage in southern Albania that was in danger of being overwhelmed by fighting as the region *slid* into a new wave of internecine conflict.

Though they had originally rejected an offer by the British Embassy to evacuate them last week, *Mike and Judy* Smith, the two 61-year-old Britons running the House of Hope, were forced by the revived level of conflict to *request evacuation on Wed*nesday evening. They said that gunfire was hitting the stone building and threatening the lives of the children.

The Smiths and their charges were at a safe house near the embassy last night recovering from the ordeal, and awaiting confirmation of *asylum in Britain, which they insist* shall be only until the rebellion ends and they can return to Elbasan.

"This now completes the *operation for the evacuation* of British, Irish and Commonwealth nationals who want to leave Albania," said Captain Graham Wiltshire, *temporary British defence at*taché to Tirana.

'Nuclear material smuggled to Italy in refugee exodus'

From Richard Owen in Rome

PIER LUIGI VIGNA, Italy's *top anti-Mafia prosecutor*, yesterday held a summit in Bari of police chiefs from the main southern towns on how to tackle the crime wave *which has followed the influx* of well over 10,000 Albanian refugees, including the reported smuggling of radioactive material from Albania for sale on *the "black" arms market.*

Officials said ten "containers of radioactive material" had been stolen last Sunday by Albanians looting a "military-related installation" — believed to be an arms factory — at Fier, near Tirana. Offici*als declined to confirm that* the smuggled consignment consisted of uranium or weapons-grade plutonium. "But we are not talking about *radioactive waste,*" one official said.

Gazetta del Sud, published in Calabria, quoted Italian secret service sources as say*ing the missing radioactive* material was "in the Otranto area", and had been smuggled in on one of the commandeered Albanian naval vessels *that have arrived in southern* Italy in the past week. The report said the material was "very dangerous" if not handled properly. *Gazetta del Mezzogiorno*, published in Bari, said the nuclear material had been smuggled by Albanian gangsters, who had a track record of smuggling *with the Italian Mafia.*

In November last year, police at Brindisi intercepted a boat from Albania and seized four kilograms of liq*uid mercury, apparently de*signed for weapons manufacture. In June, 1995, a ship with uranium on board was reported to have sunk near Otranto, and the Finance Police seized a consignment of white mercury from a *Vlore-registered ship. Refu*gees at Bari said that they had seen Italian mafiosi buying Kalashnikovs and other weapons from Albanians.

*A police spokesman in Lec*ce said southern Italian ports had become a "gateway to Europe" for smuggled goods. "We have tried to raise the *alarm, but no one listens.* They will listen when it's too late," he said. The spokesman said high-quality cannabis was being grown for export in *greenhouses near Vlore.*

"So much marijauana has arrived in Italy in the past few days that the street price has dropped dramatically," he said. "There is also a huge trade in human beings. Many of the Albanian women coming to Italy end up as prostitutes under Mafia control."

Meanwhile, the Italian Foreign Ministry denied reports that Paolo Foresti, the Ambas*sador to Tirana for the past* three years, was about to be replaced. A spokesman said Signor Foresti had been appointed Italy's Ambassador to *the Western European Union* (WEU), but would remain in Tirana until the present crisis was resolved.

Vigna: crisis talks on growing crime wave

Ministers ask EU for $210m

From Tom Walker in Tirana

ALBANIA'S new Government has asked the European Union for $150 million (£94 million) to help to ease its *balance of payments deficit.* Ministry of Finance officials in the country said yesterday. It also wants $60 million to begin reconstructing its shat*tered tax, finance and customs* structure.

The country is virtually incapable of raising any money. There are no customs offices — *so trucks that man*age to cross the border pay no tax — and mechanisms for taxing the population have all but disappeared.

The sources also had some *bad news* for southern rebels in Gjirokaster, who two days ago stole the state treasury safe but have been unable to dynamite it open. "I'm afraid it's empty," said an official.

There was relative calm in *Tirana*, the capital, yesterday, and a deadline set by the rebels for the resignation of President Berisha passed without comment. The rebels, led by *Agim* Gozhita, a former army general, will meet today in Tepelene to discuss their next move.

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(Long-Spined Urchin)

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(Black Widow Spider)

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(Common Hoodlum)

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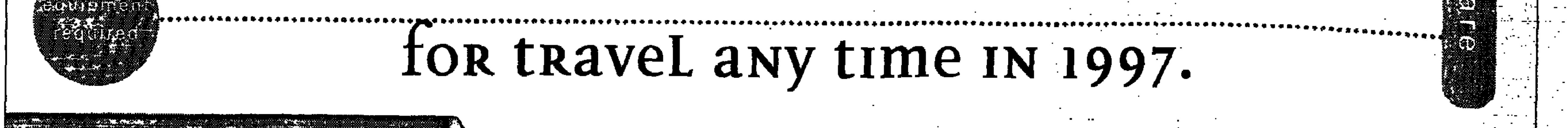

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Riot sweeps Bethlehem over Jewish settlement

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN BETHLEHEM

THE streets of biblical Bethlehem were filled yesterday with clouds of teargas and the crack of rubber bullets as hundreds of Palestinians stormed Israeli troops guarding the tomb where the Matriarch Rachel was buried after dying while giving birth to Benjamin.

The students, armed with stones and home-made bombs, were staging what was billed as the first of many street protests against Israel's decision to send in bulldozers to begin construction at nearby Har Homa, where a settlement for 32,000 Jews is being built on land annexed by Israel after the 1967 war.

"This is just a small foretaste of what is to come," claimed one Palestinian journalist as the chanting demonstators burst through lines of Palestinian police in the self-rule town which overlooks the contested hillside of Har Homa.

About 150 Israeli troops defended the tomb after moving Jewish worshippers and closing the area to pre-Easter tourists.At Har Homa, about two miles from the fighting which left three Palestinians wounded and 20 overcome by gas, Yitzhak Mordechai, Israel's Defence Minister, issued a warning to the Palestinians about the consequences of exploiting today's noon prayers in the mosques. He spoke out because he said that Israel had received intelligence reports that violent protests were being planned to follow the Friday prayer sessions.

The fury and frustration of the Palestinians was tangible on the streets. "Jabal Abu Ghneim, we are coming to liberate you," shouted the crowd, referring to the Arabic name for Har Homa. As the clashes continued for three hours, both the Palestinian police and Israeli troops — who unusually used water cannon — had to rush in reinforcements.

"We gave the Israeli Government a chance for peace, but they blew it," said one of the protesters, Mohammed Takatka. "We want to show them that we can respond and we are still a nation." Although Bethlehem has been handed over to the Palestine Liberation Organisation, Israel remains in charge of the heavily fortified tomb on its outskirts.

The anger of the Palestinians was intensified by reports that, under cover of darkness, five Jewish families had moved into apartments in an Arab house in Silwan, another part of annexed east Jerusalem, which hardline Jews claim as part of the biblical city of David.

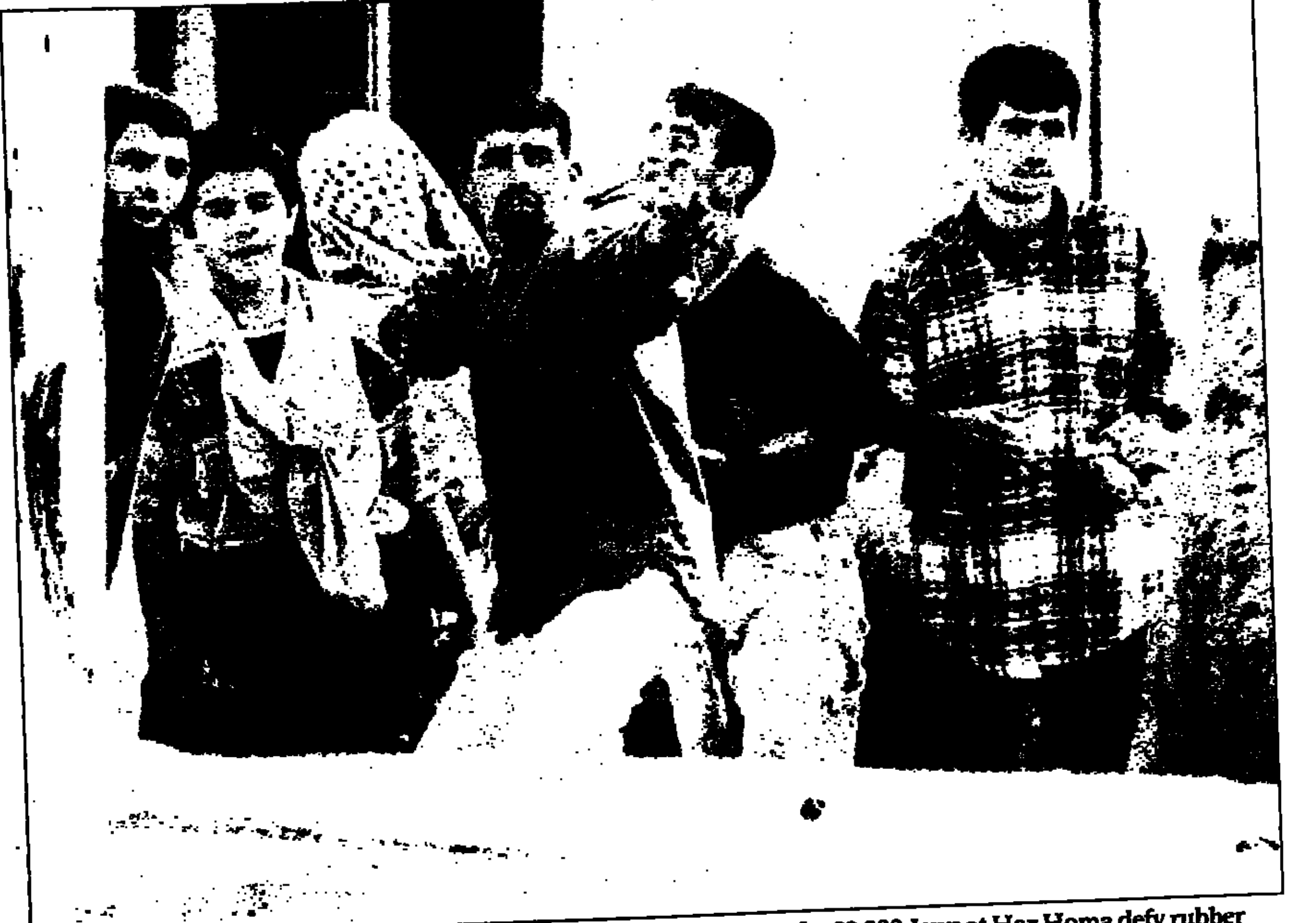
The office of Binyamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, denied that he had given his blessing to the move, but a senior supporter of his coalition, Hanan Porat of the National Religious Party, was on hand to supervise the 3am arrival of the Jews to take up residence in the mainly Palestinian neighbourhood.

Amin Sian, a Palestinian resident of Silwan, situated below the walls of the Old City of Jerusalem, said: "I think the Jews want to take the whole of Jerusalem. Already there are about 400 who have moved into houses here." The Silwan settlers claimed that they had legitimately purchased the house.

As what Israeli papers have termed "the battle for Jerusalem" gathers pace, Yassir Arafat delivered an angry speech to the Palestinian Legislative Council in Gaza. "Israel must know it cannot play with the issue of Jerusalem," he said. "Without Jerusalem, the capital of Palestine, there will be no peace in the world."

As Arab-Israeli tension mounted, Israeli warplanes struck deep into Lebanon, hitting targets manned by the Iranian-backed Hezbollah. Lebanese security sources said that the attack near the village of Hermel, five miles from the Syrian border, was the first since the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

EPA



Palestinian youths protesting against the building of the settlement for 32,000 Jews at Har Homa defy rubber bullets and fight back with slingshots and stones as Israeli troops guard the Bethlehem tomb yesterday

Digital 'safe' phones cracked

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

HOPES that the new generation of cellular telephones would be safe from eavesdropping were smashed yesterday when technical experts cracked the electronic code designed to protect privacy.

The warning that digital phones may be no more secure than the old analogue variety was greeted with alarm yesterday. In the past two years, public figures and business people have bought digital phones in the belief that they would protect them from embarrassing interceptions.

The lack of security of analogue calls was imprinted on every celebrity's mind by tapes of calls made by the Prince of Wales and Diana, Princess of Wales. In December, a Florida couple also caused Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the House of Representatives, huge embarrassment by taping a call in which he plotted tactics with colleagues.

Mr Gingrich's experience revealed that thousands of private individuals in America had bought police scanning equipment, which is widely available, in order to overhear private calls.

Then yesterday two computer security analysts and a university researcher who set out to test the new digital phones' security said that the digital code could be broken in minutes by anyone with basic technical skills and a powerful home computer.

Their claim is a blow to the new digital networks springing up across the US. The success of the "hackers" does not yet affect the European digital cellular system, known as GSM, which has much tougher security.

NEWS IN BRIEF

UN plan for bigger council

New York: The president of the United Nations General Assembly yesterday offered a compromise proposal to enlarge the 15-nation Security Council to 24 seats incorporating new permanent and non-permanent members.

After extensive consultation with UN members, Razali Ismail of Malaysia proposed that five new states should become permanent members of the Security Council and four new non-permanent members should be included.

Iraq gets food

Baghdad: Lorries carrying chick peas, beans and vegetable oil — the first food bought with Iraqi oil under a UN humanitarian deal — arrived, three months after Baghdad resumed oil exports. *(AFP)*

Shipyard claim

Warsaw: As demonstrations continued against the threatened closure of the Gdansk shipyard, the Polish Prime Minister said he believed he could save 2,000 of the yard's 3,600 remaining jobs. *(AP)*

Surprise exit

Hamilton: David Saul, the Prime Minister of Bermuda, has resigned unexpectedly. Mr Saul, 57, said he had achieved the objectives he set when he became leader in August 1995. *(AP)*

'Spiderman' held

Kuala Lumpur: A Frenchman known as "Spiderman" was arrested 60 floors up the world's tallest building, the 1,482.61ft Petronas Twin Towers. He faces a year in jail. *(AFP)*

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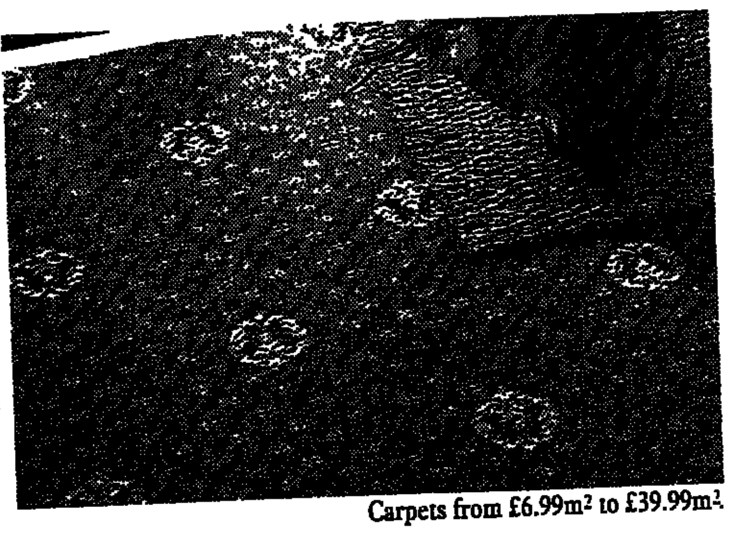

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If you can't talk about interior design, you're a nobody, says **Joe Joseph**

Forget sun-dried tomatoes, the new big thing is decorating

ANDREW LOGAN

Technicolor dream: from London to Glasgow, the coolest interiors are the ones with the most vibrant colour schemes

We all know the feeling, because if it hasn't *already happened* to you, it has almost certainly *happened to someone* you know. You come home and open the front door to be confronted by that chilling vision of rooms which have been stripped bare: not a TV set or video recorder left; no furniture; all your favourite knick-knacks gone; they've even taken the carpets. And then the icy truth dawns. An interior decorator has been in your flat. You have become a minimalist.

But if you don't like the look, don't worry. Unless you are Ranulph Fiennes and are feeling homesick for the South Pole, there is no compulsion to paint and upholster absolutely everything in white. You don't have to stick with minimalism *any more than you have to* stick with wearing only *Versace or Karan every day*. If tomorrow you want to switch *to* "Moroccan ethnic", there are a dozen books to advise you how to magic up the mood of Marrakesh in Morden.

Food? Oh, forget it. Stop flying to Tuscany every weekend to buy rare farmhouse olive oil that nobody else has heard of. The world has turned. Well-off thirtysomethings who already own 12 Armani suits, a Bulthaup kitchen, have memorised the *River Café Cookbook* and own a larder full of ingredients they can't pronounce without taking Berlitz classes, have found a new craze they can whine about over dinner and spend their bonuses on: decorating.

Go take a look in your local Waterstone's: it has been *turned over to decorating* manuals. The Conran Shop in London brims every Saturday morning with people who were weaned on *The Face* and *ID*: these people not only know the difference between Jasper Morrison and Tom Dixon, they *care*.

Whenever a shop site has fallen vacant over the past few years in chi-chi Notting Hill, in west London, a fancy boutique has opened the next morning. But the noisiest arrivals have been shops selling expensive modern furniture.

Once we were grateful for those sensible decorating tips you got from *Reader's Digest* (Example: "Don't scumble in public — it's rude"). Later, *World of Interiors* and *Elle Decoration* provided ideas for enthusiastic do-it-yourselfers and voyeuristic entertainment *for armchair decorators; then* a few months ago the magazine *Wallpaper* — subtitled The Modern Homemaker — entered our lives, edited by the tastefully named Canadian style journalist Tyler Brûlé.

Brûlé, long-time partner of the shoe designer Patrick Cox, says interior design is being taken more seriously because people aren't looking at property as a way of making a quick buck but as the cocoon in which they will be spending the next decade of their lives. His target market is women, gay men and rich City types, but the fascination with interiors has spread far, far wider.

We are all interior decorators now. *So what if some new* shop in Brewer Street sells the best prosciutto in England? Just tell us who hand-mixed that authentic 18th-century *emulsion in your hall*.

Decorating is suddenly hipper than sex — and by decorating we don't mean putting up bookshelves you bought from Homebase. We mean a carefully thought-out room plan that makes a nod to Mies van der Rohe, but is at the same time undercut with a hint of knowing irony — the sort that says: "Hey, I know God is in the details, so when I invite people over to dinner I tell people what shade of sofa they will be sitting on so that all the colours don't jar."

Today we measure out our lives not in coffee spoons but in Arne Jacobsen "Ant" chairs. The coolest interiors in London and Manchester and Glasgow have become so plagued with Day-Glo coloured Ant chairs that when *the backlash comes we will* need to bring in Rentokil to *deal with the infestation*.

You find Modernism too *bleak? There's room for you,* too. Experiment with *traditionally made paints. This* week the specialist paint-maker *Farrow & Ball launched* a new collection of striped *wallpapers in all the 95 colours* from its National Trust and Archive paint ranges (using run-of-the-mill Dulux emulsion is like still using dried tomatoes in the kitchen). The new wallpapers are produced in "the traditional 19th-century way" and cost £26.95 a roll.

Apart from all the new decorating books, the surest sign that interior decorating has supplanted food as Britain's newest armchair hobby are the TV programmes devoted to the subject. BBC 2's *Home Front* draws audiences of four million. It has been joined by *Changing Rooms* — a cross between *Blind Date* and *Candid Camera*, in which people redecorate their neighbour's house with the help of an interior designer.

> 'It's cheaper to keep your old decor and drink a lot instead'

In the pipeline for May is Real Rooms, on BBC1: *decorating hit squads descend on a* house and give it a makeover.

You still think interior decorating is just for the rich or the effete? Then look out for Challenge Cheggers, a *programme scheduled to go out* on BBC1 at 9.20am every *morning from this autumn. In* this, Keith Chegwin and his *band of decorators and* gardeners will descend on an *unsuspecting street* every week and give it a facelift.

What next? Probably Bruce Forsyth compering a game *show in which celebrities* (Ulrika Jonsson, Ben Elton, *Sir George Solti*) take on DIY experts to answer such *questions as: "Starck is the name of* what, (a) a French designer, (b) a *German minimalist* art movement, or (c) a wax used to *lime oak?"*

But don't rush ahead blindly. *There's no point spending* thousands rearranging your *house only to find yourself* falling sick because you have put everything in an inauspicious place. Consult a feng shui expert first.

Feng shui is an oriental system of arranging furniture so as to improve your chances of being healthy, happy and rich. Big in America — Donald Trump uses it. The reason you haven't heard about it already is that you have been positioned in the wrong place — namely Europe.

For those of you who have not realised that a trend has been growing around your feet, here are some decorating tips gleaned from the latest manuals to get you over the initial bump of ignorance at your next dinner party.

Tribal is fashionable right now, but be careful: a person *who is convinced he is living in* a Victorian terrace house in *Fulham will be upset to find* that his neighbour's house has *been turned into something* homely enough for a family of *Masai tribesmen*.

Don't let toddlers dictate *your decor, unless you are* prepared to live with walls in a *wipe-clean orangey-brown* and a flecked carpet that already looks as if it is studded with squashed raisins.

Study kitchen design books and then yourself: can I count *on my greengrocer to supply* me with the perfectly shaped, *shiny fruit all top kitchens* have on display?

There is a fashion for bold geometric paint schemes — a *cross between retro-Prada and* Bridget Riley. It's cheaper to *stick with your current decor* and drink heavily instead. Four large whiskies produce the same visual effect at considerably less cost.

Interior design is pricey, so work out what you can afford. You do this by dividing the size *of your mortgage by six.* This gives you a budget that you can be *confident will make* interior decorators shriek with *amused derision.*

If you're just about to jump *on to the decorating bandwagon*, remember that in the *world of lifestyle trends*, "all is flux, nothing is stationary", as the great design guru Heraclitus said. To the groovy kids, *interior decorating is already* passé. They itch to move on. To where? Probably do-it-yourself invasive surgery.

[illegible]

- *Paint* by John Sutcliffe, (Frances Lincoln £25)
- *Paper Magic* by Jane Gordon-Clark, (Frances Lincoln £18.95)
- *Decorating Magic* by John Sutcliffe, (Frances Lincoln £18.95)
- *Paint Magic* by Jocasta Innes, (Frances Lincoln £20)
- *Instant Decorating* by Stewart Walton and Elizabeth Wilhide, (Conran Octopus £10.99)
- *The New Apartment Book* by Michele Michael, (Aurum £16.95)
- *The Ultimate Interior Designer* by Ruth Pretty, (Cassel £20)
- *Decorating Entrances, Stairways and* Landings by Susan Berry, (Cassel £12.99)
- *The Art of Kitchen Design* by Johnny Grey, (Cassel £18.99)
- *Kevin McCloud's Decorating Book*, (Dorling Kindersley £22.50)
- *The Complete Home Decorating Book* by Nicholas Barnard, (Dorling Kindersley £19.99)
- *Modern House* by John Welsh, (Phaidon £40)
- *Trade Secrets: Jocasta Innes*, (Phoenix £12.99)
- *Painted Furniture: Jocasta Innes*, (Mitchell Beasley £14.99)
- *California Cottages* by Diane Dorrans Saeks, (Chronicle Books £22.99)

[illegible]

- **Justin Meath Baker** and *Christopher Neville*, working as **Baker Neville** — *just completed* Cobden Dining Club
- **Claire Nelson** — restaurant and domestic interior design, recognised for her gilded surfaces
- **Jenny Armit** — exquisite taste
- **Charles Rutherford** — one of new breed who combines architecture, design and decoration
- **Mary Fox Linten** — exeptionally experienced
- **Emily Todhunter** — popular here and abroad
- **Kelly Hoppen** — popularised smart ethic
- **Malcom Beckett** — *Soho-style loft designer*

[illegible]

- Chunky 50s coloured glassware
- Anything by Charles Eames, eg, butterfly chair, Vola taps, cutlery (must be the real thing)
- SMEG AMerican stainless steel fridges
- Donna Karan scented candles
- Large fish tanks containing tropical fish
- Tom Dixon furniture and lighting
- Electric "Hampton Beach-style" bar blenders
- Gucci alarm clocks
- American electric juicers
- Muji Japanese storage containers in cardboard or plastic
- Fake suede or animal skin, especially zebra
- Anything in brightly coloured felt

[illegible]

- **Purves & Purves**; 80, 81 & 83 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (0171-580 8223)
- **Space**; 214 Westboure Grove, W11 (0171-229 6533)
- **Tom Tom 70s Furniture**; 42 New Compton St, WC2 (0171-240 7909)
- **Aram Designs**; 3 Kean St, WC2 (0171-240 3933)
- **20th Century Design**; *274 Upper St*, N1 (0171-288 1996)
- **Viaduct**; 1 Summers St, EC1 (0171-278 3456)
- **Mathmos**; *179 Dury* Lane, WC2 (0171-404 6605)
- **Egg**; 36 Kinnerton St, SW1 (0171-235 9315)
- **Central**; 33-35 Little Clarendon St, Oxford (01865 311141)
- **Nice House**; 83A Candle Riggs, Glasgow (0141-248 1373)
- **Lloyd Davies**; 14 John Dalton St, Manchester (01606 77277)
- Both **Calvin Klein** and **Prada** are planning to open homeware shops in the UK before the end of this year

Compiled by Celia Goodrick-Clarke

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Writing poetry into Ireland's history

Roy Foster is the first Professor of Irish History at Oxford and the biographer of W.B. Yeats who, he says, is the voice of Ireland's cultural consciousness coming to maturity

PETER NICHOLLS

"Yeats was presented to me, as to most Irish people, as this grand panjandrum figure, walking the Dublin streets in his cloak as my parents saw him when they were students"

THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW

"I am slightly *surprised* that English people GET Yeats as much as they do," Professor Roy Foster *muses*. "And indeed that Americans do so at all. Didn't Clint Eastwood and Meryl Streep plight their troth with lines from Yeats in *The Bridges of Madison County*?"

We all love Yeats. In the BBC's ballot to find the nation's favourite poems, he was the only poet mentioned twice — beating Wordsworth, Kipling, Tennyson — with "I will arise and go now" and "Tread softly because you tread on my dreams". As a nation we fancifully respond to yearning wistfulness.

We like being *reminded that* a pity beyond all telling is hid in the heart of love, that our well-beloved's hair has *threads* of grey, that one should never give all the heart, *that* the world's more full of weeping than a child can understand. And if we prefer to hear *such* sentiments recited in the Irish tongue, it is largely thanks to Yeats's genius in reinventing, and making culturally fashionable, a mythic, bloodmantling Celtic *twilight world* of faery, where mouse-grey waters flow, where Cuchulain, Fergus and Aengus, and other heroes, banshees and revenants danced.

This makes Yeats a tricky subject, especially *for an historian*. "Yeats inspires possessiveness. Everyone feels they own a bit of him, *that he means something special* to them.

"But to me he is an inseparable part of the era of Irish *history I* am most interested in, 1865 to 1939. Yeats is one of the geat actors in Irish history; the voice of Irish cultural consciousness coming to maturity."

Oxford's first Professor of Irish *History* — "*the delicious* Roy Foster" as his publisher calls him — is 48, tall and lean, green-eyed, *floppy-haired*, with a *mellifluous* voice. I asked a Southern Belle with a fine sense of male allure how she rated *Roy* Foster. "*On a scale of one* to ten," she said, batting her eyelashes, "about fifty."

I found him at Hertford College, in a stage set of a don's study, spilling over with books. Sunk into an armchair by the fire was *another* Irish poet and fellow Fellow, Tom Paulin, who was about to give a class on *Samson Agonistes, and what were they* discussing? Liam and Noel Gallagher, Danny Baker and Chris Evans. (*Paulin, without irony*, drawled of Baker and Evans: "Those accents — I caan't staand them.") They also grumbled about John Carey's review of Foster's book — but was there ever dog that praised his fleas? Anyway, other critics have called it magisterial, *magnificent*, "a master work" and other superlatives.

Foster's predecessor as Yeats's *biographer*, F. S. L. Lyons, spent ten years preparing to write, sat down at his desk and immediately *collapsed and died*. When the Yeats family asked Foster to take it on, ten years ago, Foster was in the throes of writing his *Modern Ireland, 1600-1972*. Friends advised him "don't do it; don't shackle *yourself* to a great man". He might toil for years, and never do anything else. But Foster was undaunted by the vastness of the enterprise, the archive dispersed in libraries across America, the prospect of unravelling the multiple levels on which Yeats lived.

Foster embodies the Irish mind at its *quickest*: he is a vivid reporter and a witty *reviewer*. Nobody writes more eloquently on the two *countries separat*ed by the Irish Sea and divided by their common language. Last weekend he was in Dublin, judging the Ewart-Biggs Memorial *Prize* for Anglo-Irish understanding.

How Irish is he? He bridles at this "dangerous" question. "Being *asked 'If you're a Protestant*, are you completely Irish?' is exactly what Yeats had to contend with."

The answer is that Foster, like Yeats, is as Irish as can be. He was the only son (with three sisters) of schoolteachers at a progressive Quaker school, Newtown, in Waterford. His father has never been to *England*. At 17 Robert Fitzroy Foster, known as Roy, left this Jack Yeats landscape ("craggy faces outlined against wild Atlantic skies") and went to Baltimore on a Ford scholarship.

He wanted to stay in America, but his parents hauled him home to Trinity College Dublin. "I probably would have become a hopeless acid-head — or been tear-gassed, *as I was* a peacenik, and it was 1966. Trinity was not so politicised. Though I did throw a bag of flour at the Queen of the Belgians' car." (It missed.)

He might also have been braindrained like other historians (Simon Schama, David Cannadine) who have found academic celebrity in America. Instead, he *fetched up* at Birkbeck College, London, where he stayed 17 years *and ran the history department* until, encouraged by his mentor the late historian Angus Macintyre, he *arrived in Oxford in 1991. He would* have left Birkbeck for nothing less than this pioneering chair.

Yeats *himself* was captivated by Oxford, when he went to translate Aesop's fables in the Bodleian for £5, subsisting on currant buns. "I *wonder* anybody *does* anything at Oxford but dream . . . the place is so beautiful. One almost expects the *people to sing instead of speaking*. It is . . . like an opera," he wrote. Foster feels much the same. He can *gaze enraptured by moonlight on* the Radcliffe Camera and the Bodleian at his door. It certainly beats Kentish Town, whence he commutes weekly, and where his wife Aisling (now writing her second novel) lives with their children Phineas and Nora.

Yeats, born into the declining Protestant bourgeoisie with a cold, sad *mother*, and painter father, grew up in the artistic milieu of suburban Bedford Park, with its de Morgan tiles and aesthetically correct flowers. Foster brilliantly *paints this fin-de-siècle background* canvas. Here young WB was a sucker for any occult nonsense, astrology, spiritualism, seances, theosophy, necromancy. But through plundering arcane ideas *he cultivated his sense of the poetic*. He also developed his own style — the black velvet coat, the arty pose — into the dramatic figure in the famous portrait, which Daniel Day-Lewis *uncannily* resembles.

"It surprised me that he lived *more in* England than in Ireland: he spent more time near *Euston station than he* did at Coole Park." (Foster wandered by the lake at Coole with Andrew Motion, the poet; there were no wild swans about.) In Woburn Buildings, the undomesticated Yeats turned a modest flat into a salon. Though his own entertaining facilities were "limited by his cutlery", Yeats became quite grand and dined with Churchill.

> 'Don't do it; don't shackle yourself to a great man'

"*Yeats was presented to me*, as to most Irish people, as this grand panjandrum figure, walking the *Dublin streets in his cloak*, as my parents saw him when they were students in the late Thirties. Greatness hung about *him. He died* surrounded by this image, and by that too much quoted Auden poem about him being 'silly like us'. But I formed more affection *and fascination for him* as I followed his childhood to the engaging *and sometimes* scatty young man; you gather the humour and pas*sion and quickness* that's there, under the carapace of greatness."

Last night's *Night Waves* on Radio 3 featured a recording of Yeats reading, in a portentously rolling monotone, *The Lake Isle of Innisfree* ("that unfortunate poem" as Leavis called it). Yeats was forever haunted by the popularity of the over-anthologised poem, which had been inspired by *thoughts of Sligo — where his* wealthy grandparents, the Pollexfens, lived — while looking into a *shop window in the Strand*. The earliest version is misspelt and does not scan, but Foster regards the *process by which the poem reached* its "shimmering perfection" as outside his historical brief.

"I am not trained to do it. Brilliant critics from Ellmann to Donoghue to Deane have scrutinised the poems. In any case, I love Yeats's *prose*, its cadence and modulation and brilliance."

In his deconstruction of Yeats's life, *there are many hilarious* moments. Foster gives a first airing to a limerick, found in the archive *at Austin, Texas, by Oliver St John* Gogarty about poor little rich girl Miss Annie Horniman, the tea *heiress*, who fruitlessly pursued Willie Yeats, who "in any case isn't a horny man". Yeats was a late *developer, still unmarried at 49* when this volume ends. But his affairs with women who tended to be unattainable — Maud Gonne, Florence Farr, Olivia Shakespear — and the productive, non-sexual *friendship* with *Lady Gregory*, amounted in Foster's view to "a good career decision".

Yeats, Foster says, could not but be enthralled by bronze-haired, *Valkyrian* Maud Gonne. Foster did not expect to like Maud: "A Shelleyan *princesse lointaine*, equipped with great height, tragic beauty and secret sorrows. But I became sympathetic to her because *of her awful life*; I love her style, and her letters. Though no doubt she could drive you mad."

Our *interview ended as a lucky* female undergraduate arrived for a tutorial. Recalling how women *flocked to the Yeats lectures of Dr* Denis Donoghue, to hear the Irish voice, I inquired whether he was ever troubled by those accusations of sexual harassment to which Oxford is prone. "Cerrttainly nottt! Whatt an outra-a-geous suggestion!" he cried. For the next volume, and to discover why should not old men be mad? we *shall* have to wait, agog, until 2000.

- W.B. Yeats A Life, *OUP*, £25

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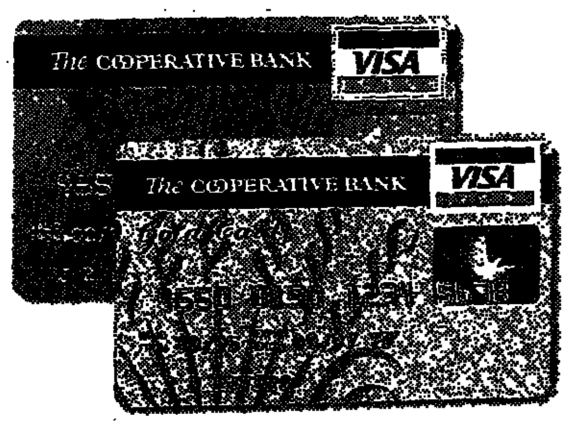

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When a princess grows up

Rachel Morris rereads the books of her childhood

LATELY I've begun to regret *the effects of good children's* literature. There's something about the books we loved between the ages *of eight and* 12 that ensures they're never forgotten. The book that changed my life when I was ten — and not necessarily for the best — was *A Little Princess* by Frances Hodgson Burnett. The terrible truth is that Sarah Crewe, the princess of *the title*, with her ladylike stoicism and her belief that goodness will be rewarded if only we don't make a fuss, is with me to this day — and serving me very badly in the competitive Nineties.

Sometimes I think I'd be better off with Fagin or Captain Hook as my *exemplars*.

Wanting to reread a favourite childhood book is one of those trivial yet *important* reasons for having children. For years, bedtimes can be an excuse to reread *The Wolves of Willoughby Chase* and *The Family at One End Street*; *I've been known to sit up long* after the children have gone to sleep, reading their books all *over again*.

But the trouble with living your life according to the *morals of a children's book* — any children's book — is that children's books are simple *and adult life is complicated*. (I was at it again the other day: when some career decision *required me to be brave*, what image did I summon up? The face of Aslan from one of the *Narnia* books, with his most vicar-ish expression.)

The other difficulty with these books is that they can still prompt us into the most romantic gestures. A friend of *mine suddenly upped and left* behind an unhappy love affair and a London career to become a primary school teacher in Devon. None of us could understand such a dramatic *volte-face* until I remembered her favourite books when we *first met, aged* 11½ — the *Miss Read* stories: quiet tales of a village teacher from a *bygone* age. Children's books, like adult novels, can sometimes change your life.

These days my daughter reads to herself, but now that I've grown wise to the dangerous effects of some children's classics I worry about what's *going on in the privacy of her* bedroom. The other day I looked at the Brian Jacques books in which she's been immersed. These literate and readable *books* are *hugely* bloodthirsty. A medieval abbey and a band of mice are *forever struggling against the* forces of evil. Death and villainy is alive on every page. *Characters are made* appealing — then killed before our eyes. But the message of *these books — that you have* to fight for what you want, that women cannot be passive, *that loyalty and* comradeship are the most important virtues — is as likely as anything *to stand her in* good stead 30 years from now.

Just so long as they don't *encourage her to become* a mercenary. In which case I shall regret not having given her *A Little Princess*.

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Philip Howard

■ Low jinks at Greyfriars: Bunter and the tuck-for-questions affair

It was end of term at Greyfriars, Westminster. So a spirit of holiday happiness had spread through the Remove. Some of the seniors (who were not coming back next term, having been literally "removed" from the school by their parents) had lost all sense of their position as prefects, and were singing: "Hark the Black Rod Ushers shout, 'One more day and we'll all be out'." And the juniors had gone wild with terminal excitement. They waved their handouts in the air to beat time as they squeaked and gibbered: "No more sleaze and no more stench, No more sitting on the hard back bench. No more Major, no more Blair, No more ignoral by the Chair."

"Bunter!" The Speaker's voice was not loud, but deep. It was heard distinctly by all ears in the Big School form-room: excepting, apparently, one pair of very fat ears. "BUNTER!" The Speaker's voice was much louder, and much deeper. Still Bunter did not reply. But, as if in answer to the Speaker, a sound came from the Fat Owl of the Chamber. Snore! Bunter generally snored when he slept. In the Remove dormitory, Bunter's deep snore was wont to rumble on through the night, like the unending melody in Lloyd Webber music — not perhaps quite so musical. So far he had not snored in class. Now he did! Though *how* he did in the uproar was a question for *Old Stinks*, the chemistry beak.

"Bless my soul!" ejaculated the Speaker. "The boy is asleep! Skinner! Awaken that boy." Skinner reached over to awaken him. Harry Greenway or Bob Hughes would have given the Fat Owl a shake. But Skinner was not a good-natured fellow. Skinner's method of awakening Bunter was to take a fat ear between finger and thumb, and pull. He took a good grip on Bunter's ear — there was plenty of room for it — and pulled.

It awakened the Honourable Member. It awakened him quite suddenly. Billy Bunter came out of the land of dreams with a jump and a yell. "Yaroooh! Ow! Leggo my ear, you beast! Wow! I say, you fellows — yow-ow. Ow! I say. Tain't the division bell yet." Bunter jerked his fat ear away from Skinner, rubbed it, and blinked round him dizzily, under the impression that he was in an armchair in the Members' smoking-room.

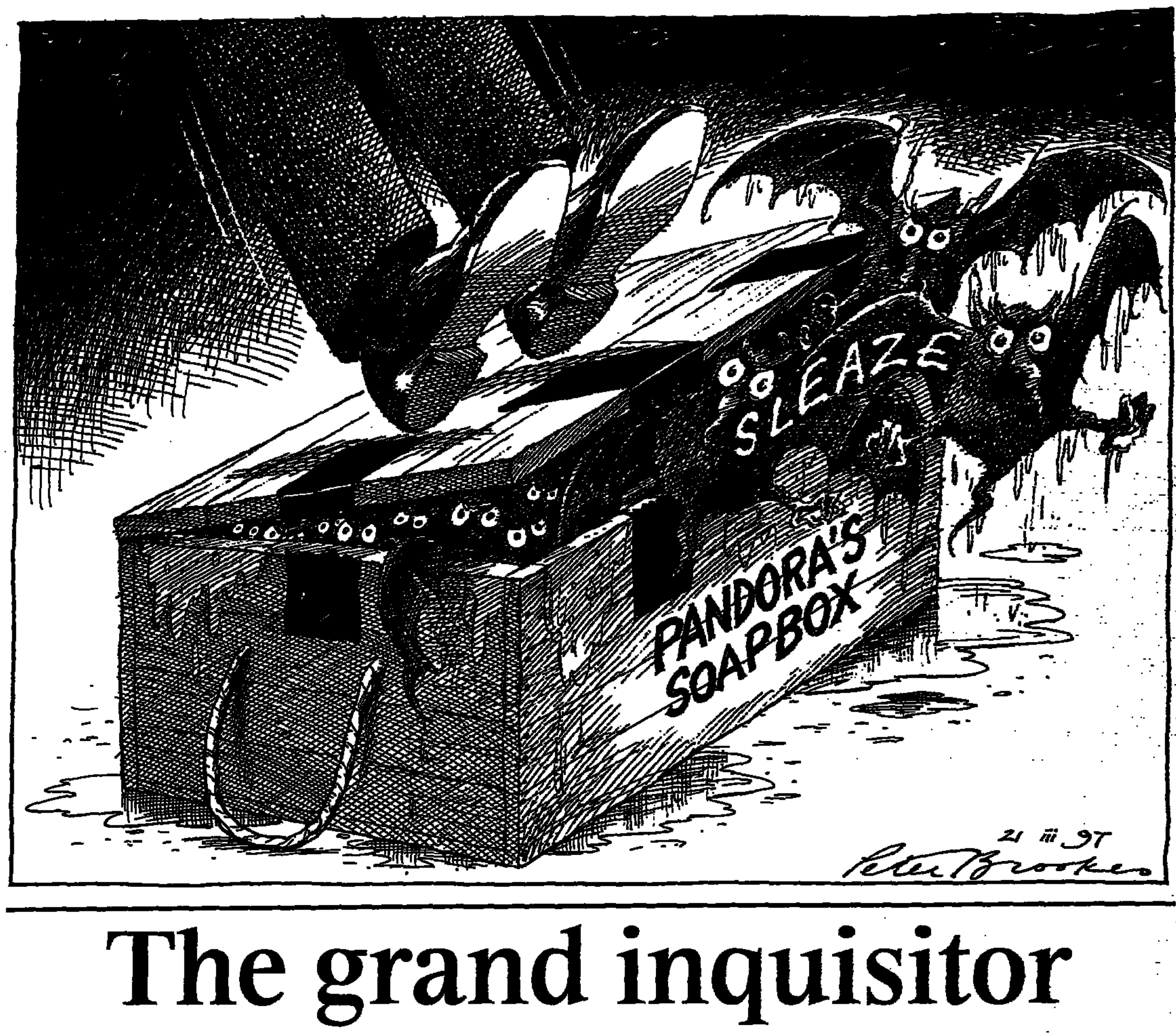
"Bunter!" thundered the Speaker. "You were asleep in class, Bunter. And you have not yet answered my tuck-for-questions prep." The Owl of the Remove blinked in terror. "I — I had my eyes shut, because — because I listen better with my eyes shut. I — I was listening very carefully, Madam Speaker. It was so — so interesting. And what was it that you said about tuck for questions?"

At the mention of the magic word "tuck", a fat smile twitched at the corners of Bunter's fleshy mouth. From there it spread slowly over his greasy face, as a spoonful of strawberry jam spreads out over semolina pudding. His eyes closed again in ecstasy, as he dreamt of plum jam and sardines, of lobster thermidor and *créme brulée*. And of the phantom postal order that was always on its way to him in a plain brown envelope, but was said never actually to have arrived.

"Very well," said the Speaker in a grinding voice. "I was speaking on the subject of the Commons Committee on Standards and Privileges. Tell me what you know of Harrods and the Paris Ritz. And about garden furniture from Peter Jones?" Bunter blinked. So far as his hazy memory served him, the Speaker had been droning about standards and the spirit of the old school when he nodded off to sleep. So why was he now blethering about the Ritz? A brainwave surged through his tiny mind. "Ritz? Biscuits sir. Like Hob-Nobs. And please sir, it's time for the prorogation bell."

"If you say another word, Bunter, I shall cane you!" roared the Speaker. Bunter did not say another word. Things looked positively dangerous. "Ha, ha, ha!" shrieked the Remove.

Boys may come and boys may go, at Westminster as well as in the other never-never land of Greyfriars. But human nature stays the same, from Bunter to Quelch. And the best joke of life is the banana-skin. The inability of the self-important to recognise their cosmic ridiculousness, in the long eye of history and literature.



The grand inquisitor

Tony Blair has changed the tenor of Prime Minister's Questions — and we should scrutinise his high moral tone

Matthew Parris

How Prime Minister's Questions has changed!

Sir Alec Douglas-Home: "*The Rt Hon Gentleman* has discussed the question of the reunification of Germany. He will know, as we all do today, that a serious situation may possibly arise in Berlin. Will he keep the House informed in the next day or two about that?"

Harold Wilson: "Yes, certainly."

That was 1965. And now . . .

Tony Blair: "Is it not extraordinary that the Prime Minister of our country *cannot even urge his party to support his* own position [on the single currency]? Weak! Weak! Weak! Weak! I tell him that his weakness and his failure of leadership are the reason his Government are the incompetent mess they are."

John Major: ". . . All he does is waft his arms around in hopeless gesture . . . He has followed in Grandmother's Footsteps *in following policy after policy of* ours. [On Europe] he dare not admit *what his* policy is."

PMQs (as we press gallery nerds like to call them) have become the positioning flares of current affairs, marking out the path of political debate. If a future historian needed a handy guide to Westminster's focus during any given week, *those quarter-hours each Tuesday and* Thursday would be the place to start. *Their* content *recalls the* political agenda; their style captures the personal styles of the era's parliamentary stars. As surely as a couple of bars from an old pop song, their tone evokes the flavour of its time.

Since the arrival of broadcasting *direct from the chamber, much of the* electorate has come to believe that Question Time, particularly Prime Minister's Question Time, is the most significant thing that happens in our legislature. And if people think it significant, then significant it is, for politicians will reserve for the occasion those statements and gestures they want the electorate to notice. *Strange, then, that* the session has attracted so little study. *Only Philip Norton and Mark Franklin* have published at any length on the subject, editing the revealing collection *Parliamentary Questions*.

Despite the Gothic convolutions by which (via an inquiry about his engagements for the day) the Prime Minister is confronted with the question of the hour, this method of holding the Government to account is little more than a couple of decades old. But ivy is a fast-growing plant, and many now assume that, like the fake architecture of Big Ben — so much newer than it looks — Prime Minister's Questions *is part of the ancient* fabric of our government. In reality it is *still growing, still changing. PMQs* as an institution has seen a huge if gradual shift. During the 1960s there was far less posturing: the opportunity was often taken for genuine inquiry; questions would be transferred to a departmental minister if they were not strictly within the prime minister's remit. But Margaret Thatcher was willing to respond to *any questions which (in her words)* raised "issues of general substance and national interest". Meanwhile, increasing reliance on the "open" question left MPs free to raise the latest *news*. These days, they do little else. PMQs *freeze-frames* the topics and personalities of the hour.

Yesterday, Tony Blair squared up to John Major for the last time in this Parliament — perhaps the last time ever from their present positions. Reviewing the years in which Mr Blair has boxed from the Opposition corner, and comparing *them with the years that went* before, I find it hard to separate the impact *of his own personality from the impact* of the sound-bite politics that any modern Commons performer must learn.

I have been re-reading the old *Hansards*. John Smith was gentler, as you would expect. It is more surprising to discover that Neil Kinnock, too, was *often milder and less personal. Though* sometimes roused to a fine and contemp*tuous moral fury*, he was not, as Blair is, routinely indignant.

How much of this change arises from Blair's own political style, and how much from an underlying shift in the tenor of all Commons exchanges? The urgent attention that the modern media now focuses on short video clips from PMQs certainly favours homily over argument, *gesture over explanation. So,* (were they in his shoes today) would Alec Douglas-Home or Jim Callaghan have expressed themselves in the sort of moral bark that Blair has made his *own?* Would they be as personal and as insulting? Would they so insistently *imply superior virtue on their own part?* Do all Opposition leaders now have to do this?

I have little doubt that Mr Blair has made his own contribution to this shift. Moralising comes naturally to him, as any scan through his chosen vocabulary will reveal. Key words such as "blame", "disgrace", "dishonour", "responsibility", "values", "rebirth" and "renewal" leap from his text as owing something — certainly — to the flavour of our times, but something, too, to his personal stamp. A phrase he used in February last year, describing John Major's Government as "knee-deep in dishonour", struck me not because it so contrasted with the language we might expect, but because of the routine recourse the Labour leader has to extravagant imputations of personal wickedness *in his opponents*.

Along with his reflex tendency to question a *rival's moral virtue goes a* habit of questioning his moral fibre. The charge of weakness, cowardliness and irresolution comes quickly to Tony Blair's lips. He would retort that this is because his rival *is* weak, cowardly and irresolute — and certainly the charge, *repeated so insistently from the Opposi*tion dispatch box, has helped to cast *John Major in that light. I suspect that* with hindsight we may doubt whether the insistence with which Blair has questioned what might be called his opponent's manly *qualities* has been appropriate. It may have told us something about Mr Major, but I suspect it tells us more about Mr Blair.

Part of the problem for any leader of a "new" Labour Party, of course, *is that* there is now so little of substance to *argue about. Whatever their instincts,* the stated positions of the two parties are remarkably close. Polly Toynbee speaks of the "by-election" mood in which this contest seems to be taking place, and she *is right. A by-election is an opportunity* to kick the government in the nuts, without changing the government. That is just what Tony Blair is inviting the electorate to do: replace the board, but leave the business intact.

To do this, it makes sense to get personal: doubly so because polls suggest that Major himself is more popular than his party, so anything *Blair can do to* knock him down is good tactics. But one *senses more than tactics behind Blair's* overt and subliminal message that he is a better man than his opponent. One senses that he really believes he does possess superior virtue, and that this is a matter of national importance.

We have got the message, and nothing *has done more than Tony Blair's use of* Prime Minister's Questions to ram it *home. So far, the message has assisted* Blair, politically. But I have a warning for him. This is hard to frame without verging upon Jungian mumbo-jumbo. I believe that, from those who govern us, or aspire to, we hear claims to superior personal virtue on two levels. At the *conscious level the public is glad to learn* that its would-be-governor considers his own goodness important. *At the unconscious* level, however, we take a little umbrage at the claim. This is because none of us is without guilt and because — whatever they claim to believe — people half-like to suppose their leaders are the same. We would somewhat *prefer it if they were*.

At this unconscious level, every claim *to virtue is a kind of reproach.* The reproach may be directed, in Blair's case, at Major, but it ricochets off — however lightly — onto all his fellow men, including those he aspires to lead; and, however lightly, we are stung. Though the voters may cheer, to every wagging finger, two are *invisibly raised.* Behind the bright, audible, video-recordable world in which these years of Opposition have been played out, there is a parallel, dark, *silent* world in the unconscious mind of Britain: a world in which doubts and resentments hover and grow, waiting to be clothed with the name of action and thought.

As Mr Blair heads towards Downing Street, I can feel, almost touch, hanging *in the air around him, the gathering Schadenfreude* he has attracted over all *those* Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. It is a dangerous way to start.

Labour won't pack the Lords

Hereditary peers should go, says Tessa Blackstone

The Prime Minister apparently believes *that* our constitution is fine and should not be changed. He seems oblivious of changes to the constitution during the 20th century. For example, he needs reminding that 100 years ago, *more than* half the population could not even vote, mainly because women were denied the *franchise*. In the late 19th century more than two-thirds of MPs in the Commons were peers or *their* sons. Their replacement by a more representative group, including boys *from Brixton, is surely progress.*

Labour is putting before the electorate a proposal to reform the House of Lords which will help to make further progress, as part of a programme for constitutional reform agreed with the Liberal Democrats. Since some Liberal Democrats were originally rather sniffy about Labour's two-stage approach to reform of the Lords, reaching agreement on this part of the constitutional package was particularly gratifying.

If Labour is elected, it will begin by tackling the scarcely defensible composition of the House of Lords, some 700 Members of which are there merely by virtue of their birth. Lord Redesdale, best known as the father of the Mitford sisters, believed that the attacks on the hereditary peerage were akin to attacks *on Christianity. "I inherited my title* from my father just as Christ inherited *His* from *God*," he proclaimed. Such views are a little out of fashion these days. Nobody would argue that someone should be given a place in a football team just because his father was in it. Nevertheless, some pretty silly claims are still being made by Conservative *hereditary peers. Even the intelligent* and urbane Viscount Cranborne, the current Leader of the *Lords*, was uncharacteristically crass when he claimed, in a speech defending the present system, that hereditary peers represent the common man.

Not for much longer, perhaps. A Labour government would introduce a *short Bill to prevent them from sitting* and voting. Some sceptics say it is not worth doing because it will take up too much parliamentary time, since Tory hereditary peers, supported by their front bench, will vote for wrecking amendments, and resist their reversal in the *Commons*, by voting for similar amendments on the Bill's return to the Lords. *They believe* that were *this* to happen a Labour government would have to in*voke the* Parliament Act. They are wrong. Lord Cranborne has already said that the Salisbury-Addison doctrine, first enunciated by his grandfather, will apply. This establishes the convention that proposals in the Queen's Speech which were also in the new government's election manifesto *and for which the government therefore* has a mandate should not be rejected by the unelected House.

Many hereditary peers don't bother to turn up. Of those who do, well over 300 take the Conservative whip, compared with fewer than 20 who take the Labour whip. This imbalance is unhealthy and stops the House from working properly as a *revising* chamber. *It means that* those who have won the argument often lose the vote because the Tory aristocracy can be summoned to Westminster by *their* whips to vote for the Conservative line, as happened in the poll tax debate. Use of backwoodsmen in this way brings the Lords into disrepute and prevents it from fulfilling its proper function as a check *on the government*.

There are wild stories around that *Labour intends* to pack the House of Lords with hundreds of new life peers brought in on a party list. This is not true, even though the removal of the hereditary peers still leaves an imbalance in party representation *in the* Lords, partly because Margaret Thatcher always *insisted that more* life peerages be created for Tories than for the *other side. Labour* and the Liberal Democrats have agreed instead that gradually, over the course of the next Parliament, we should move towards a position "where those peers who take a party whip more accurately reflect the proportion of votes received by each party in the general election".

Some commentators have been worried about the *future* of the crossbench peers, who do not take any party whip. Their *independence*, particularly when it is combined with wide experience, *knowledge* and expertise, is rightly valued. The agreement between Labour and the Liberal Democrats acknowledges this and proposes that *when the* hereditary peers have gone, crossbenchers should *remain* at the present proportion of about a fifth, and that they should be consulted about ways of replenishing their numbers. There has also been concern about the fate of those hereditary peers who currently make an important contribution to the Lords, and some of whom are ministers. Labour intends to make it possible for them to become life peers.

Once the first stage of reform is in place, there will not be a long delay in moving to the second stage. Labour plans to set up a committee of both Houses during the next Parliament. It will be asked to come up with recommendations for a more democratic and representative Upper House. Labour's determination to establish a democratic and efficient second chamber is central to its programme to modernise our constitution. The Conservatives' decision to defend the hereditary peerage's automatic right to sit in the Upper House is both foolish and reactionary.

Baroness Blackstone is a Labour spokesman in the Lords.

THE TIMES DIARY

No help here

AT THE Helsinki summit, where a wheelchair-bound and sheepish-looking President Clinton had to be lowered from his plane to the Tarmac in a catering van, sympathy has moved on to another member of his party: Madeleine Albright, his new and formidable Secretary of State.

Her former husband, Joe Albright, who abandoned her for a younger woman 15 years ago, is also in Helsinki. That woman is now his wife, and she has accompanied him on the trip to Finland.

Madeleine Albright has never forgiven Joe for the morning in 1982 when he announced to her that he was in love with another woman. She had suspected nothing. "It was a shock," she said later. "Most of Washington knows that Joe left. I was very upset. I had been *married* for 23 years and I did not want a divorce."

Albright: abandoned

Joe walked out on her saying that the marriage was dead, and left her in tatters. The scion of a newspaper dynasty, he now works for a newspaper company in Moscow, and *has been dispatched* to cover the meeting between Boris Yeltsin and his former wife and the President.

"She still bears a real grudge for the manner in which he dumped her so unceremoniously," says one political observer. "She won't be going out of her way to help him with his story."

Lions' share

EVEN after death, the curiously attired Marquess of Bath plans to have little truck with the stuffier members of his family.

He has decided he will not be buried, as is the custom, in the family vault at the Wiltshire church of Longbridge Deverill near Longleat, his estate.

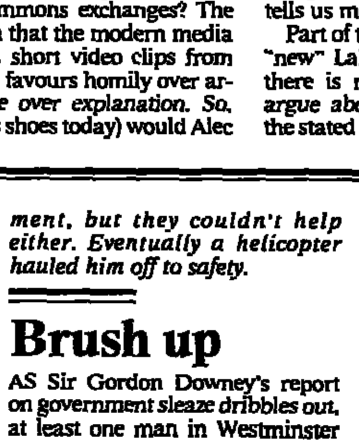
Describing the vault in next month's *Field* magazine *he says it* is "gloomy and claustrophobic". He explains: "I might not relish the company in which I found myself," adding that "corpses get disinterred and put on the political display as an item from the political regime which nurtured them. I feel sure I wouldn't be looking my best." Instead, he plans a cremation, with some of his ashes to be scattered among the lions of Longleat and the rest kept in an urn for his family to share.

● *An ambulance crew was stymied yesterday when it turned out to rescue a 22-stone man who had fallen out of a tree in Worksop, Nottinghamshire, and sprained his ankle. Unable to hoist him up, they summoned the fire brigade with their special lifting equipment, but they couldn't help either. Eventually a helicopter hauled him off to safety.*

Brush up

AS Sir Gordon Downey's report *on government sleaze dribbles out*, at least one man in Westminster *has shown himself beyond* financial reproach: Douglas Hogg, the Minister of Agriculture.

After writing a light-hearted piece for a tabloid newspaper the other day about his love of hats and foxhunting, Hogg received a *cheque for £300. Unable to accept*, he duly returned it to the paper with a note attached. "If you would like to donate this money to a good cause," he wrote, "might I suggest the British Field Sports Society?"



Pole position

WHEN Margaret Thatcher's *papers are properly installed in* the archives centre of Churchill College, Cambridge, they will have as their handsome backdrop a group of flags returned from the Falklands conflict.

Nick Baker, who commanded *HMS Endurance* during the operation in 1982, and who was a defence fellow at Churchill, gave the college the Argentine flag which his men captured from the island of South Georgia, the Union Jack they put up in its place, and the white battle ensign from their ship.

*The library has recently been re*decorated, and the flags are now hanging prominently in the main reading room. Piers Brandon, keeper of the college archives centre, says: "The flags make a very handsome and appropriate backdrop when needed. We had them well before the Thatcher papers, but it is a very happy coincidence."

● *Creative talent is working overtime in Bognor Regis, where the town's Watershed Theatre has embarked on a new project*, Max Clifford: The Musical. *The show documents the public relations man's career and the sensational headlines that he has brought us.*

Catatonic

THE Defence Secretary, Michael Portillo, risks being mauled by animal campaigners after unwittingly walking about with a dead cat on his head.

While on a recent visit to Ukraine, Portillo — who is more fond of animals *than many of his* Cabinet colleagues — decided to buy a fur hat to stave off frostbite in the 15-below-zero climate. One of his officials bought an identical hat, and both of them were snug as they wore them towards the end of their visit.

When the civil servant returned home, however, his wife took one look at the hat and said: "Why are you wearing a dead cat on your head?" At first the chap thought it was a joke. But not so. His wife, a cat-lover, recognised the hat as cat fur. A veterinary friend confirmed his worst fear.

Michael Portillo was told the news and, as a result, has quickly acquired a new fur hat. He has been assured the replacement is not of feline origin.

P·H·S

RIGHT TO KNOW

Parliament has been denied the chance to put its house in order

The House of Commons rises today with its reputation dangerously low. The final Prime Ministerial Question Time of this Parliament was a juvenile exercise — the politics of the sandpit. The cause was a serious matter, the failure of this Parliament to put itself in order before it presents itself to the people. The manner of the party leaders' disagreement did not match the importance of the matter at dispute. The current argument over "sleaze" may be presented by the Prime Minister as an opportunistic assault on the Tories, but popular concern with standards in public life is not defined by party boundaries.

Yesterday the body charged with regulating the Commons, the Standards and Privileges Committee, responded to the pressure for a proper treatment of "sleaze" allegations with a report which provoked more questions than it answered. Fifteen MPs were exonerated but the serious doubts hanging over Neil Hamilton and Tim Smith remain. Moreover, other MPs hitherto neglected may now be presumed guilty of misconduct in the absence of unambiguous assurance of their innocence. Far from lancing the boil, the infection has spread. It is in the interest of the accused MPs and the voters that the facts are known. The case for publication of Sir Gordon Downey's report is stronger than ever.

Caveats have been entered. The Privileges Committee yesterday reminded the Commons that publication of Sir Gordon's report would not end matters. Those members found to be at fault would have the right to make further representations before a final conclusion was reached. Such a process, they laconically conclude, "could take a considerable time". Apologists for the Government argue that even if the prorogation of Parliament were delayed to allow the committee to receive Sir Gordon's report it would not then have that "considerable time" to consider the report.

It is true that the most appropriate treatment of these matters would see such a lengthy inquiry take place, but the best should not become the enemy of the good. Rather than suppressing the report and allowing rumour, leak and the wild allegations of reckless campaigners to define debate thoroughout the election campaign, it would be infinitely better to publish. The committee's *amour propre* is not as important as the public's right to know.

There is nothing recklessly novel in calling for Sir Gordon's report to be published upon completion. The report of Lord Nolan's Commission into Standards in Public Life recommended that Sir Gordon have the power to "make findings and conclusions public" in the same way as the Comptroller and Auditor General and the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration.

The Prime Minister stopped his ears yesterday to arguments for openness and chose instead to see current anger over the suppression of the Downey report as a creation of the Labour Party, manufactured to divert attention from falling unemployment. It is certainly the case that Tony Blair scents blood, but that is because the Prime Minister shot himself in the foot.

John Major treated the genuine concern of the Liberal Democrat MP Simon Hughes as a matter for levity. Mr Hughes queried the suppression of Sir Gordon's report in the Commons, and *The Times* called for publication in this column, before the announcement of any unemployment figures. It is Parliament's name, not the advantage of any party, that matters. If the Prime Minister had delayed Parliament's rising in order to facilitate publication of Sir Gordon's report, then he might have gone some way to restoring faith in the ability of the Commons to regulate itself. In treating concern so cavalierly, however, the Prime Minister has done both his party and Parliament a disservice.

HELLO, HELLO, DOLLY, DOLLY

Here is a Commons committee working as committees should

Dolly, the cloned sheep which is now almost as famous as her namesake Dolly Parton, burst upon a world whose psyche had been thoroughly prepared by the powerful images of science fiction. Ever since Mary Shelley whiled away a wet summer writing *Frankenstein*, the vision of the crazed scientist creating life in a test-tube has been a staple of the genre. The fevered public reaction to Dolly cloned is thus both understandable, and a tribute to the power of literature to shape the mind.

More sober reflections have come from the Committee on Science and Technology of the House of Commons, which has shown uncommon dispatch in producing a report on the Dolly breakthrough. The report contains much good sense, in urging that the instinctive reaction of horror at the prospect of human cloning should not be allowed to cloud the real prospects of benefit that come from cloning animals. These include producing medicinal proteins from the milk of genetically engineered animals, a better understanding of human development and disease, improving the productivity of animals in agriculture and, more speculatively, the possibility of cloning not human beings, but human organs.

The committee — save Sir Trevor Skeet, who provides a minority report of his own — is agreed that the regulatory regime in Britain is well-fitted to cope with the challenges of cloning. Unlike the United States, where the subject appears to have been given little thought, Britain already has a framework of law, and institutions in the form of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority and the new Human Genetics Advisory Commission, which itself owes its existence to the persistence of the Commons committee in advocating it. Between these two, this country should not fail for the lack of well-considered advice.

The committee says that human cloning using the Roslin technique should be illegal, if it is not so already. Doubts arise over the legal interpretation of the word embryo. The 1990 Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act bans human cloning using embryos, but the Roslin method uses adult material, combined with an enucleated egg. Is this an embryo? Legal opinion is being sought, but this is not enough for the committee, which wants Parliament to amend the law to remove loopholes. The problem, of course, is that science may discover yet more cloning methods, which would necessitate yet further changes. Tweaking of the law may be needed, but Parliament should also heed the advice of Ruth Deech, chairman of the HFEA, who warned the committee that the law should be kept flexible to accommodate future scientific developments.

The committee has some sharp words for the embattled Ministry of Agriculture, which celebrated the cloning of Dolly by cutting its funding to the Roslin Institute. Cavalier and blinkered are the words the committee uses to describe this action, and they cannot be improved upon. Given its record over BSE — where far too little was spent on research — and *E. coli*, where good scientific advice was ignored, it is plain that research management is not the ministry's strong point. Its reluctance to share data with outside researchers is another blot on its record. The committee is right to call for a full-scale investigation during the next Parliament of the ways in which the ministry commissions and uses research and scientific advice.

OUR MAN IN OUR VOLVO

When a correspondent goes beyond the call of duty

Journalists are supposed to stay apart from the events that they describe. But sometimes, like our man in Albania yesterday, they cannot. Anthony Loyd tells his own story on page 16 of how he was co-opted by special forces for a desperate evacuation of an orphanage at Elbasan. This was a feral operation in a perilous place. It was carried out darkly at dead of night, in body armour and with the *Times* Volvo driving shotgun. It was the sort of story-book experience that happens to journalists' subjects, not normally to journalists themselves. And unlike so many newspaper stories it has a happy ending. All the orphans were safely rescued.

Journalists come in all shapes. Our man in our Volvo is characteristic of a line of foreign correspondents stretching back intermittently over two centuries. Since, unlike his TV colleagues, he is not a familiar face we should say that he is a pony-tailed former Greenjacket and bushwhacker aged 30, that he fought in the Gulf War and that his great-grandfather won a Victoria Cross at the Somme. Like the most famous of all our war reporters, William Howard Russell, his job includes taking calculated risks on the dangerous edge of things.

Russell of the Crimea is known by name. Because of archaic convention and for reasons of security, the names of the other war correspondents were unknown to the newspaper's readers safely away from the drums and the guns. Theirs was the famous byline "From Our Own Correspondent". But sometimes they were not only "our" and more than just a correspondent. Ferdinand Eber arrived in Sicily as Garibaldi began his long march on Rome, and was appointed a general of the insurgents. Although the writers of this column disapproved, they needed his stirring copy and kept him on. In the Balkans J. D. Bourchier was depicted on a stamp in Bulgarian national costume and holding a gun. Crabb Morrison at Corunna, China Morrison in Peking and many other *Times* correspondents helped to make history as well as the edition.

Some, tragically, died in the danger. Frank Power had his throat cut at Khartoum. Walter Harris, Our Special Correspondent in Morocco, was thrown into a cell full of decapitated bodies, and only escaped decapitation himself by a hair. Frank Riley was murdered in 1927 covering the civil war in China.

War correspondents tend to be bad risks for life, motor or any other insurance. But being a good risk is not the accolade they seek. "I wonder what would have come of it all had I followed the quiet path instead of noisy drums and trumpets", wrote Russell in his later years. He did not care too much what the answer might have been. Nor do we. Our own correspondents still sometimes march towards the sound of the gunfire, find the news and file the copy. And we who read it should occasionally salute them.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Election brickbats and boasts, propaganda and pledges

From the Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury

Sir, It is Labour's Alistair Darling (letter, March 19) who deceives himself over the economic performance of the last 18 years. His claim that the Government has centralised power on an "unparalleled level" ignores the devolution of power from often highly politicised local authorities to schools and from the incompetent central government economic planners of the 1970s to industry and consumers.

Achievements on spending as a percentage of national income have to be seen in the context of massive increases in other industrialised countries and the shift of spending away from loss-making nationalised industries in the 1970s to spending on core services such as health and law and order.

In 1979 the nationalised industries were losing £50 million every week; privatised industries now contribute £60 million to the Exchequer in corporation tax.

His claim that the UK growth rate since 1979 is less than that achieved under Labour conveniently evades the fact that the 1970s were a higher growth, but also a much higher inflation era. Our growth is now much closer to the EU average. Just as important, we have moved from the bottom of the league of G7 countries for manufacturing-productivity growth in the 1960s and 1970s to the top since 1980. That was why the independent National Institute for Economic and Social Research recently proclaimed that we had closed four fifths of the competitiveness gap with Germany.

Most ludicrous is Mr Darling's claim on debt. The national debt has been lower every single year under this Government than in any year under Labour and is the lowest of all major EU countries. We have also borrowed at, on average, half the level of the last Labour Government.

No one would claim that governments do not make mistakes, but the fact is that Britain's very long-term decline has been halted in the past 18 years — which might explain why Mr Darling's party has so hurriedly had to abandon most of its central economic policies and adopt the Government's own tax and spending plans.

Yours faithfully,
PHILLIP OPPENHEIM,
House of Commons.
March 19.

From Mr David Gale

Sir, Your leading article today states that "Mr Major's desire to maintain the highest standards in public life is conspicuous". Yet he has presided over the most conspicuously disreputable Government of my (62 years') lifetime. Westminster is littered with the half-buried remains of sleaze, mendacity and questionable conduct of government, ministers and MPs over the last five years.

If the buck does actually arrive and stop in Downing Street, how is it that Mr Major manages to hang on to his honourable reputation?

Yours sincerely,
DAVID GALE,
37 Harlech Road, N7.
March 20.

From Mrs Linda Moule

Sir, Over the next six weeks every elderly Conservative should remind first-time voters of the reality of life under a Labour government.

Yours faithfully,
L. MOULE,
White Coppice Farm,
High Hurstwood, East Sussex.

From Mr Martin Ornstein

Sir, The newsworthiness of a 44-day "longest election fight in memory" (report, March 17) can only bring a smile and a sigh of envy from an American reader. In order to elect a president we are forced to endure well over a year of adverts, debates, interviews, rallies, promises, enthusiastic announcements, tearful withdrawals, the hype and spectacle of the conventions, unrelenting attacks, accusations and "sound bites".

A world where all this is condensed down to 44 days is Utopia indeed.

Yours sincerely,
MARTIN H. ORNSTEIN,
26-18 Quail Ridge Drive,
Plainsboro, New Jersey.

From Mr A. R. Reynolds

Sir, The tendency towards televised debates for "prime ministerial" candidates must be considered unwelcome, at least from one point of view. This, together with the ever-increasing emphasis given to the party above the person standing for election in a constituency, detracts from the main purpose of a general election.

Each elector is voting for a candidate to represent him or her at the Palace of Westminster. We are not voting for a prime minister. Even the residents of Huntingdon and Sedgefield should not be under this misapprehension.

Yours sincerely,
A. REYNOLDS,
Whitwell, 41 Chesterton Avenue,
Harpenden, Hertfordshire.
March 17.

From Ms Naomi Holloway

Sir, I was dismayed to see in your reports today one that referred to the cost of Cherie Booth's clothes. I hope this is not a sign of things to come over the next six weeks of electioneering.

As a working woman with a considerable income Mrs Blair's expenditure on clothes is probably not dissimilar proportionately to that of many working women.

Here is a successful woman who, like many of us, earns and spends her own money.

Yours sincerely,
NAOMI HOLLOWAY,
12 Middle Road,
East Barnet, Hertfordshire.
March 18.

From Mr B. M. Suchak

Sir, I would like to suggest to Mr Nicholas Budgen (article, "We ignore immigration at our peril", March 18) that an influx of *any* 400 families would cause considerable social tension in his village. His emphasis on Asian families is not only misplaced but also dangerous.

Yours faithfully,
B. M. SUCHAK,
Suchak & Co (solicitors),
472 High Road, Wembley, Middlesex.
March 18.

From Dr G. P. Bowker

Sir, Your cartoon summary today of Major's reign is ironic, especially the cartoon depicting electricity privatisation, captioned "Privatisation gave power to the people".

At the moment, shareholders in London Electricity who do not wish to sell their shares to the American company Entergy are having them compulsorily purchased under provisions of the Company's Act 1985. So much for a shareholders' democracy.

The choice, it seems, is not, as the Eurosceptics claim, between power remaining in Westminster or going to Brussels, but between it remaining here or going to Wall Street.

Yours sincerely,
G. P. BOWKER,
4 Hillgate Place, Kensington, W8.
March 18.

From Mr Maurice Taylor

Sir, Not dissimilar in content and style to the general election, an equally enriching event will be taking place at about the same time.

As anyone who follows the Eurovision Song Contest will know, the resulting scores are infinitely more enthralling than the songs that have been sung.

Yours sincerely,
MAURICE TAYLOR,
22 Claremont Hill,
Shrewsbury, Shropshire.
March 16.

Nato enlargement

From Mr P. J. Riddell

Sir, Western reaction to Russia's hostilities towards an extended Nato (leading article, March 20) reminds me uncomfortably of the Versailles Treaty's attitude towards Germany after the First World War.

I believe it would be a grave mistake to consider Russia to have been defeated in the Cold War. Rather it has emerged from an experiment with a philosophy which has proved to be flawed, but the experience of which has nevertheless something to teach the world.

In any case, we should beware of humiliating a nation and riding rough-shod over legitimate concerns which can only store up trouble for future generations.

Yours sincerely,
P. J. RIDDELL,
12a Norham Road, Oxford.
March 20.

From Lord Kennet

Sir, Last Friday you published letters from Professor Sir Michael Howard, our foremost historian, and Sir Frank Cooper, a most distinguished former Permanent Under-Secretary of State at the Ministry of Defence (March 14), each warning that the Government's unexplained drive for Nato expansion is pointless and dangerous.

On the same day I raised a mini-debate on Nato enlargement in the House of Lords. It lasted 90 minutes. I had ten minutes to speak, Lord Chesham, the non-specialist whip who was answering instead of any minister, had 15. He ended: "I have considerably more to say, but . . . time has caught up with me." The 12 other speakers had five minutes each. It had been a fight to get that.

Lord Chesham also said: "No issue has higher priority in Britain's foreign policy." He spoke of democracy and transparency and, answering none of the questions raised, limited himself, in Sir Frank's word, to "assertions".

Why has Nato's future remained undiscussed in either House of Parliament except for a 90-minute airing in the Commons three weeks ago and this one Lords' debate, both on the initiative of backbenchers? The Foreign Office does not even know if the matter has been examined in other parliaments.

What was Nato supposed to defend? Was it democracy?

Yours etc,
KENNET,
House of Lords.
March 16.

Sport letters, page 43

Aid for Albania

From Dr Raymond Hutchings

Sir, You are quite right (leading article today) that it was "shameful" that Europe could not deal with violence and atrocities in former Yugoslavia. But as regards Albania, you conclude that "very considerable humanitarian aid in the very short term" may well be needed.

One cannot deny the need, but how can aid get in unless at least one port and airport are secured?

In Apeldoorn, Malcolm Rifkind opposed the French and Italian proposal to deploy up to 3,000 men to make secure Tirana airport, and in the light of your recommendation, it seems illogical that you too do not favour that proposal.

Yours faithfully,
R. HUTCHINGS
(Author,
Historical Dictionary of Albania,
Scarecrow Press, 1996),
168 Turnpike Link,
Croydon, Surrey.
March 17.

U-boat secrets

From Dr P. J. Horsey

Sir, The retrieval of *U559*'s codebooks in November 1942 (Ralph Erskine's letter, March 18) involved all three members of *HMS Petard*'s crew stripping naked and diving into the rough sea in darkness to reach the submarine. Tommy Brown was a boy assistant to the Naafi canteen manager and therefore a civilian. It was he who handed the codebooks to the seaboat's crew. The submarine sank suddenly when he was at the top of the ladder leading to the control room and he was the only one to be picked up.

When his age (16) became known he was sent home and lost his life two years later while attempting to save his infant sister from a fire which engulfed his South Shields home. His George Medal was well deserved and it would be interesting to know what became of it.

Yours faithfully,
PETER HORSEY,
The Old Manor,
Ashley, Stockbridge, Hampshire.

Tunnels questioned

From Dr Martin R. Cragg

Sir, The proposal from David Green, President of the Institution of Civil Engineers (letter, March 11), that London's traffic problems can be solved by an underground network of tunnels is certainly innovative but I would suggest impracticable.

Tunnelling unfortunately is a very expensive solution and in London prohibitively so, given the enormous related cost of diverting services, including the Underground network. The associated works would also be extremely disruptive to traffic over the many years of construction.

All the political parties are supportive of a sustainable transport policy. We should seek to contain or even reduce private vehicular movement, not to foster it, and to encourage more environmentally friendly modes of transport, namely (light) rail, bus, cycling and walking.

Travel into central London is ideally suited to public transport as the routes are radial. The difficulty is in coping with orbital movements, especially in outer London, which cannot easily be provided by public transport and for which tunnelling is unlikely to help. In any event, by comparison with other major European cities, London's traffic moves relatively freely.

As Mr Green suggests, tolling could be an important source of funds. But any money available for improving transport in London should be largely earmarked for the long overdue improvements in public (sustainable) transport and traffic management schemes.

Yours truly,
MARTIN CRAGG
(Chief Executive and Secretary),
The Institution of Highways
and Transportation,
6 Endsleigh Street, WC1.

From Lord Berkeley

Sir, As a member of his institution, I applaud David Green's efforts to secure work for his members, but is his idea really a transport priority?

A tunnel to carry 5,000 passengers per hour in their cars would probably cost five to ten times the cost of one to carry the same number in trains under ground, and cause much greater environmental damage.

I suggest that his institution should direct its energies to promoting projects which have some chance of being realised, such as Thameslink 2000, Crossrail or the East London Line extension, along with a comprehensive network of bus lanes and transport interchanges. These will do much more to improve the quality of life in London, and at a much lower cost, than a rabbit warren of road tunnels.

Yours,
BERKELEY
(Chairman, Railfreight Group),
House of Lords.
March 12.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

Film censor's duty 'to uphold values'

From Mr Peter M. Noonan

Sir, I was dismayed to see that the British Board of Film Classification has approved the showing of the film *Crash* (report, March 19).

You report that in coming to its decision the board obtained the professional opinions of a QC who specialises in obscenity cases and a forensic psychiatrist. But such "expert" advice should not, in my view, be put forward as justification for the board's conclusions.

The public expects its film censors to protect the mores and values of British society by the application to questions of decency of simple common sense.

Film makers expect the censors' policies to be clear and consistent. Time perhaps for the censors to be censured?

Yours faithfully,
PETER NOONAN,
Palm Beach, 21 Orchard Hill,
Rudgwick, West Sussex.
March 19.

From Councillor Robert Moreland

Sir, You report the legal adviser to the British Board of Film Classification as stating that the "average viewer" would reject the values of the film *Crash*.

The real concern is not the "average viewer", or indeed the majority of viewers, who no doubt will reject the values of the film and, hopefully, will find it repulsive. The concern of those of us who viewed the film for Westminster Council is the effect on those — no doubt a minority — who could be influenced by the values of the film. If one person takes seriously the message expressed by one character, that road crashes "stimulate", then there should be public concern.

I see no public benefit — or enjoyment — in showing the film, at least without the cuts suggested by Westminster City Council.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT MORELAND
(Councillor for Knightsbridge),
Westminster City Council,
Victoria Street, SW1.
March 19.

Voices in the House

From Mr J. S. Roche

Sir, It is always unwelcome to disagree with Betty Boothroyd, but there are strong constitutional arguments against her ruling on pagers in the Commons (report, March 13). The issue is a much wider one than just the noise of an interruption, as clearly a pager could be silent and the information it provided, deadly.

The real question is the unrealism of the assumption that — unlike traders, bankers, doctors, civil servants or most other professionals — MPs should be expected to be expertly briefed beforehand on all matters that could conceivably arise in the chamber, or in committee. Clearly they cannot.

Is it right to deny MPs the opportunity to make better, more informed contributions to debate as a result of information that they can be provided by researchers whilst debates are in progress? Democracy will ultimately be the poorer if those who control the practices of the House of Commons do not recognise that legislation is better made through expertise than rhetoric. Please think again, Madam Speaker.

Yours faithfully,
J. S. ROCHE,
19 Cabot Drive, Dibden,
Southampton, Hampshire.

Architectural merit

From Professor Paul Kline

Sir, The strange thing is not that Tadao Ando cannot call himself an architect (report, March 20) but that those who have passed architectural exams can.

Yours sincerely,
PAUL KLINE,
University of Exeter,
Department of Psychology,
Exeter, Devon.
March 20.

Yes, we have none

From Mr John Eden

Sir, We shouldn't be surprised that bananas have supplanted apples in the public affection (report, March 19), given that bananas still taste like bananas, whereas apples taste of nothing in particular.

Yours, etc,
JOHN EDEN,
12 Eastern Road,
Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands.
March 19.

Too close for comfort

From Mr Robin Findley

Sir, I suggest that Sir George Cooper (letter, March 17) need not worry unduly about the letter he received signed by a lady calling herself the Head of Fulfilment . . . at least, not until he opens one — as I did this morning — from a lady describing herself as Operational Quality.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN FINDLAY,
10 Glebe Road, Cheam, Surrey.
March 17.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 20: Air Chief Marshal Sir *Michael Graydon was received by* The Queen upon relinquishing his appointment as Chief of the Air Staff.

Major General *Raymond Sharp* was received by Her Majesty upon relinquishing his appointment as Regimental Colonel, Royal New South Wales Regiment.

Mrs Sharp *was also received by* The Queen.

His Excellency Mr Anatoly Adamishin and Mrs Adamishina were received in farewell audience by *Her Majesty and took leave upon* His Excellency relinquishing his appointment as Ambassador from the Russian Federation *to the Court of St* James's.

The Queen, Patron, this afternoon attended a Concert at the Royal College of Music, Prince Consort *Road, London SW7, was received by* the Chairman (Mr Leopold de Rothschild) and afterwards toured the College.

The Duke of Edinburgh, President Emeritus, World Wide Fund for Nature - WWF International, *this* morning left Calgary and flew to Nova Scotia.

His Royal Highness this afternoon arrived in Halifax.

The Duke of Edinburgh this evening attended a Dinner for World Wide Fund for Nature at the Prince *George Hotel*.

The Queen was represented by the Baroness Miller of Hendon (*Baroness in Waiting) at the* Funeral of Sir John Stow (formerly Governor-General of Barbados) which was held at *Putney Vale Crematorium, London* SW15, this morning.

March 20: The Prince Edward, Trustee, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Foundation, and Chairman, International Council, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Association, this morn*ing left Heathrow Airport, London,* for New Delhi, India.

His Royal Highness was received *in New Delhi by the British High* Commissioner (His Excellency the Hon Sir David Gore-Booth).

Lieutenant Colonel Sean O'Dwyer is in attendance.

March 20: The Princess Royal, Colonel-in-Chief, Royal Logistic Corps, this afternoon received Major Gen*eral Colin Carrington upon* relinquishing his appointment as Colonel Commandant and Major General *David Botting upon* assuming the appointment.

Her Royal Highness later attended the Spring Meeting and delivered the Lecture to mark the Twenty Fifth Anniversary of the Faculty of Public Health Medicine at the Royal College of Physicians, St Andrews Place, *London NW1*.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
March 20: The Prince of Wales this morning visited the *Wolverhampton Express and Star*, was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of West Midlands (Mr Robert Taylor) and viewed the news gathering and printing facilities and met staff.

His Royal Highness, President, this afternoon attended a presentation to local business leaders on the work of The Prince's Trust and Business in the Community, at *Wolverhampton* Wanderers Football Ground.

The Prince of Wales, President, Business in the *Community*, later attended "Tomorrow's World Live at the NEC", Birmingham, and presented the 1997 Prince of Wales Awards for Innovation.

His Royal Highness, President, this evening attended the Royal Charity Premiere of "Star Wars" at the Odeon Cinema, Leicester Square, London WC2, in aid of The Prince's Trust.

KENSINGTON PALACE
March 20: The Princess Margaret, *Countess of Snowdon was present* this evening at the Imperial War Museum, London SE1, to attend a *Reception to celebrate the eightieth* birthday of Dame Vera Lynn, and to view the "Forties Fashion and the New Look" Exhibition.

Her Royal Highness was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London (Field Marshal The Lord Bramall, KG).

March 20: The Duke of Gloucester, Deputy Colonel-in-Chief, The Royal Logistic Corps today received Major *General Colin Carrington on* relinquishing his appointment as Representative Colonel Commandant and Major General David Botting on assuming the appointment.

The Duke of Gloucester, President, British Consultants Bureau, this evening attended a Dinner at the Royal Thames Yacht Club, Knightsbridge, London SW1.

YORK HOUSE
March 20: The Duke of Kent, Vice-Chairman, the British Overseas Trade Board, this morning visited United Kingdom Glass *Eels Limited*, Hampstead Lane, Gloucester, and was met on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Gloucestershire (Mr Henry Elwes).

His Royal Highness this afternoon opened new student facilities at the Cheltenham and Gloucester College *of Higher Education, Pittville Campus*, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

The Duchess of Kent, President, this evening attended a performance of *Werther*, at the Royal Northern College of Music, Oxford Road, Manchester, Greater Manchester.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
March 20: Princess Alexandra, Vice-President of the British Red Cross, accompanied by the Rt Hon Sir *Angus Ogilvy, this morning* opened the new headquarters of the Bermuda Red Cross, 9 Berry Hill Road, Paget, Bermuda.

Royal engagements

The Queen will visit Queen Elizabeth Endowed School, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, at 10.15; will attend a reception and luncheon at Nottingham Council House at 11.50; will visit Nottingham Courthouse at 1.55. Later she will open the new headquarters *for Boots at 2.25; will visit Boots* Contract Manufacturing Development Laboratories at 2.40; and will visit *Boots Healthcare International* at 3.00.

The Prince of Wales, on behalf of the Queen, will hold an Investiture at Buckingham Palace, at 11.00. As *President, The Prince's Trust, will* attend the British Telecom Swimathon at the Queen Mother Sports Centre, *223 Vauxhall Bridge* Road, Victoria, at 1.45.

The Duke of York will visit the Defence Technology stand at the Year of Engineering Success exhibition at the National *Exhibition* Centre, Birmingham, at 1.10.

Luncheon

National Sporting Club
Mr François Pienaar was the guest of *honour and speaker at a luncheon of* the National Sporting Club held yesterday at the Café Royal. Mr Bob *Willis, chairman, presided.*

Lord Chelmer

A memorial service for Lord Chelmer will be held in Chelmsford Cathedral on Wednesday, April 23, 1997, at 3.00pm.

Margery Clay

A celebration for the life of Margery Clay, teacher of English 1942 to 1972, North London Collegiate School, will be held on Sunday, April 20, at 3.00pm in the Music *School at Canons*. For an invitation please telephone 0181 952 0912.

Nene College, Northampton

Sir John Lowther, Lord-Lieutenant of Northamptonshire, will take the chair at the Annual Meeting of the Nene College Court held today in *Northampton. The Chairman of* Governors, Air Marshal Sir John Sutton, will present the Annual Accounts and Dr S. Martin Gaskell, Director, will present the *Academic Report*.

Birthdays today

Lord Boston of Faversham, QC, 67; Mr Peter Brook, theatrical producer, 72; Dr C.L. Brundin, former President, Templeton College, Oxford, 66; Mr Brian Clough, former football manager, 61; Miss Ann Clwyd, MP, 60; Mr Timothy *Dalton, actor*, 51; Mr Ieuan Evans, rugby player, 33; Mr Michael Foreman, writer and illustrator, 59; Mrs Llin Golding, MP, 64; Sir John Hall, former chairman, Cameron Hall Developments, 64; Mr Roger Hammond, actor, 61; Mr *David Heathcoat-Amory*, MP, 48; Mr Michael Heseltine, Deputy Prime Minister, 64; Mr Antony Hopkins, composer and conductor, 76; Mr Frederic Horne, former Chief Taxing Master, Supreme Court, 80; Miss Ann Mackay, *soprano*, 41; Sir Peter Main, former chairman, The Boots Company, 72; the Earl of Munster, 71; Baroness Nicol, 74; Lord Oaksey, 68; Sir John Palmer, former President, *Law Society*, 77; *Professor* J.D. Pickard, consultant neurosurgeon, 51; Vice-Admiral Malcolm G. Rutherford, 56; Sir Brian Shaw, chairman, Port of London Authority, 64; *Viscount Soulbury*, 82; the Earl of Swinton, 60; Mr Stuart Westley, Master, Haileybury College, 50; Lord Wilson of Langside, QC, 81.

School news

Queen Anne's School, Caversham
Queen Anne's School, Caversham have awarded the scholarships to the following girls (effective September 1997).

Academic Scholarships: Joanna Clegg, Dolphin School, Hurst; Amy Fowler, Rupert House School, Henley on Thames; Sarah-Jane *Golding, Queen Anne's School*; Jennifer Hudson, Godstowe School, High Wycombe; Sara Kingon, Godstowe School, High Wycombe; Helen Jeffery, Queen Anne's School; Frances McClure, Queen Anne's School; Gabriella Smee, Rupert *House* School, *Henley on Thames*; India Tatham-Banks, Dolphin School, Hurst.

Major Music Scholarships: Janet Weston, Queen Anne's School.

Music Exhibitions: Karen Ng, Queen Anne's School; Jennifer Watson, Queen Anne's School.

University news

Oxford

The Weldon Memorial Prize 1996

Dr Martin A. Nowak, Wellcome Senior Research Fellow, Head of the Mathematical Biology Group in the Department of Zoology, Oxford University and Fellow of Keble College, has been awarded the Weldon Memorial Prize 1996.

All Souls College

Senior Research Fellowships

James Noel Adams, (Professor of Latin, Reading University), and Jeremy Nicholas Butterfield, (Lecturer in Philosophy, Cambridge *University) have been elected to* Senior Research Fellowship from January 1, 1998.

Cambridge

Darwin College

Anne Carla Ferguson-Smith, has *been elected into Official Fellowship.*

Appointments

Mr David Wright to be Ambassador to Qatar from the end of May, in succession to Mr Patrick Wogan who is retiring from the Diplomatic Service.

Dr John Freeman to be United Kingdom Permanent Representative to the International Atomic Energy Agency, to the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation and to other United Nations Organisations at Vienna in succession to *Mr Christopher Hulse who will be* moving to a new Diplomatic Service appointment. Dr Freeman, who will hold the personal rank of ambassador, will take up his appointment next month.

ANDRÉ CAMARA

The Bishop of London, left, with Canon John Oates, Rector of St Bride's, Fleet Street, after he had commissioned the rector as Area Dean of the City of London yesterday.

Memorial services

Sir John May
The Lord Chancellor was present *at a memorial service for Sir John* May, a former Lord Justice of Appeal and past Treasurer of the Inner Temple, held on Wednesday at The Temple Church. Canon Joseph Robinson, Master of The Temple, officiated.

Mrs Juliet Cameron, daughter, read the lesson. Sir Francis Purchas gave an address.

The Lord Chief Justice, the Master of the Rolls and the President of the Family Division attended. Among others present were:

Lady May (widow), Mr and Mrs Simon May (son and daughter-in-law), Mr Nicholas May (son), Mr James Cameron (son-in-law), Frederick May (grandson), Oliver Weston (step grandson), Mr and Mrs Paul Peterson and other members of the family.

Viscount and Viscountess Hood, *Lady Mackay of Clashfern, Lady* Woolf, the Treasurer of the Middle Temple, Lord Jenkin of Roding (representing Clifton College and the *Old Cliftonian Society*) with Mr Hugh Monro (Headmaster) and Mrs Monro, and Mr Andrew Thornhill, QC, (chairman of the council).

Lady Harris of Greenwich, Lord and Lady Dunboyne, Lord Goff of Chieveley, FBA, Lady Borrie, Lord *Lloyd of Berwick, Lord and Lady* Bridge of Harwich, Lady Brandon of Oakbrook, Lady Brown, the Treasurer of the Inner Temple and Lady *Staughton, Lady Purchas, Lord Justice* Morritt, Lord Justice and Lady Swinton Thomas, Lord Justice Judge, Lord Justice and Lady Hobhouse, Lord Justice Mummery.

Lord Justice Otton, Lord Justice Leggatt, Lord Justice Evans, Lord Justice Roch, Lord Justice Brooke, Lord Justice Hutchison, Lord Justice Simon Brown, Lord Justice Kennedy, Lord Justice Thorpe, Lord Justice and Lady Waller, *Sir John and the Hon* Lady Stephenson, Lady Hirst, Sir Michael and Lady Fox, Sir Brian and Lady Dillon, Sir Andrew Leggatt.

Sir Ian Percival, QC, and Lady Percival, Sir David Croom-Johnson, Lady Neill, Sir Ralph Gibson, Sir Christopher and Lady Slade, Sir Patrick Russell, the Hon Mrs Justice Hogg, Sheila Lady Bernard, Mr Justice Popplewell, Mr Justice Hidden, Mr *Justice French, Mr Justice and Lady* Curtis, Mr Justice and Lady Turner, Mr Justice Sumner, Mr Justice and Lady Laws.

Mr Justice May, Mr Justice Alliott, Mr Justice Morland, Lady (Ian) Lewis, Sir Philip and Lady Woodfield, Admiral Sir James Eberle, Lady Griffin, Sir Ralph and Lady Kilner Brown, Sir Barry Sheen, Sir Kenneth and Lady Hollings, Sir James Hennessy, *Sir David and Lady Lane*, Sir John and Lady Wood, Sir William Stabb, QC, and Lady Stabb, Sir Godfray Le Quesne, QC.

Lady Cobb, *Sir Richard Barratt*, *Admiral Sir John and Lady Bush*, Sir David and Lady West-Russell, Sir John and Lady Wood, Professor Sir John Smith, QC, Lady (Deborah) Turner, Mr Charles and the Hon Mrs Wilson, Mr Petre Crowder, QC, and the Hon Mrs Crowder, Judge Aglionby, Judge Coltart, Judge David Clarke, QC, and Mrs Clarke, Judge and Mrs Dyer, Judge Pownall, QC, and Mrs Pownall.

Mrs J Robinson, His Honour and Mrs Peter Macnair, *His* Honour Richard Lowry, QC, and Her Honour Nina Lowry, QC, His Honour George Dobry, QC, His Honour Edgar Fay, QC, *His Honour Judge Pollock*, Mr Michael Sherrard, QC, Mr Gerald Moriarty, QC, and Mrs Moriarty, Mr Roger Henderson, QC, Mr Anthony Machin, QC, *Mr Jonathan Playford*, QC, Mr Guy Sankey, QC, Mr Michael de Navarro, QC.

Mr Timothy Preston, QC, Mr James Goudie, QC, Mr Evan Stone, QC, Mr Michael Hill, QC, Mr Antonio Bueno, QC, Mr Michael Kempster, QC, and Mrs Kempster, Mr John Archer, QC, Mr R Englehart, QC, Mr Vivian Robinson, QC, Mr John Crowley, QC, Mr Christopher Symons, QC, Mr William Crowther, QC, Mr Edward Nugee, QC, Mr Richard Salter, QC, Mr Roger Titheridge, QC, Mr Peter Boydell, QC.

Major Gilbert Lamb, *Mrs Charles* Barker-Bennett, Miss Sally Barker-Bennett, Mrs David Buchanan, Mrs June Buchanan, the Rev Ivo Morshead, Ms Catherine Morshead, Mr Tim Morshead, Mr and Mrs Michael Turner, Mr and Mrs Peter Taylor, Mrs Lucy Lloyd-Davies, Mrs Andrew Edwards, Mr Alastair Stewart-Richardson, Mr Anthony Smith, Dr and Mrs David Hay, Mr Stuart Andrews, *Mr and Mrs Henry James*, Mrs Lorna Rawlence.

Mr and Mrs Roderick Davidson, Mr Cyril Horsford, Mrs Patrick Hickman, *Mrs Catherine Goff, Mr Guy* Margetson, Mr and Mrs Mark Garnier, Mr Mark Sheldon, Mrs J Kellock, Mr Gordon Catford, Mr Stephen Cobb, Mr O Sowande, Mrs John Willmer, Mr Christopher Purchas, Mr Henry de Lotbinière, Mrs Felicity Clarkson, *Mr R M Morris*, Mr and Mrs A T Gregory, Mr David Turner, Mr N Percy Metcalfe, Mr Florence O'Donoghue, Mr Clive Freedman, *Mr Roger Beament. Mr* John M Dennes.

Miss Anne Rafferty, QC, (chairman, Criminal Bar Association), Mr Robert Williams, (*The Law Reports and The Weekly Law Reports*), Mr W.M. Caldwell (Redcliffe School Trust), Mr Thomas Dennes (Chestertons Residential), and many other friends.

Sir Roger Falk
A service of thanksgiving for the life of Sir Roger Falk, businessman, was held yesterday at St Bartholomew-the-Great, West *Smithfield*. The Rev Dr Martin Dudley officiated and the Right Rev John Taylor said the prayer and gave an opening address.

Mr Hugh Lang gave an address. *Mr Ian Albery, chief executive*, Sadler's Wells Trust, read a tribute written by Lady Solti and Mr Nickolas Grace read from the works of William Shakespeare.

Among others present were:

Mr and Mrs Quentin Falk (son and daughter-in-law), Mrs Deborah Lawson and Miss Marianne Falk (daughters), Mr Paul Lawson, Mr Andrew Lawson and Laura Falk (grandchildren), Dr Tamsin O'Connell, Mr Gerald Stroud, Mrs Val Brodrick, Mr Robert Brodrick, Miss Tessa Brodrick, Mr Jeremy Lever, QC, Mr Philip Cohen.

Sir Dallas Bernard, Sir Lewis Robertson, Sir Ronald and Lady McIntosh, Sir Peter and Lady Reynolds, Sir Nigel Strutt, Sir Alan Dawtry, Sir Austin and Lady Bide, *Lady Niven, Sir Alan Hardcastle, Sir* Colin Cole, Sir Philip Jones (honorary treasurer, Sadler's Wells Trust) with Mr Ian Davison (chairman), Professor Gerald Manners (vice-president), *Mr* Paul Richardson (technical director, Sadler's Wells Theatre) and Lady Le Gallais (representing the American Friends of Sadler's Wells).

Mr James Pensione (vice-president, The Vic-Wells Association) with Mrs Iris Kells Arlen (chairman); Mr Robert Esden (representing the chairman, Imperial Society of Knights Bachelor), Mrs Jacqueline Morrell-Thomas (*Action for Dysphasic Adults*), Mr Geoffrey Adams (Design and Industries Association) with Mrs Nell Chamberlain; Mr Stewart Urry (*Haileybury*), *Mr Bill Tyrwhitt-Drake* (president and honorary secretary, The Haileybury Society) and Mrs Tyrwhitt-Drake, Mr Jim Donaldson (F-E Pension Trustees), Mr Peter Scott (Provincial Insurance), Mr Peter Warland (BEAP).

Mr Barry Pinson, QC, and Mrs Pinson, Mr Anthony Butcher, QC, Mr David Lawson, Mrs Christine Golder, Mr Jason Golder, the Rev Philip and Mrs Morgan, Mr Anthony Davis, Mr and Mrs David Jewell, Mr and Mrs Mark Cohen, Mr John Dreyfus, Mr John Mackenzie, Mr Tony Howitt, Mr George Tyler and many other friends.

Mr Bruno Gabriele
A memorial service for the life and work of Mr Bruno Gabriele, investment banker, was held yesterday at St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey. Canon Donald Gray officiated and the Rev David Cook, Team Rector of the Church of St Nicholas, Newbury, led the prayers.

Mr Nicholas Lyons and Mr Steven Berger read the lessons. Mr Raymond Seitz, Vice-Chairman of Lehman Brothers International (Europe), gave an address.

The Rev Jonathan Goodall, Chaplain and Sacrist of Westminster Abbey, was robed and in *the Sanctuary*.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Johann Sebastian Bach, composer, Eisenach, Germany, 1685; Claude-Nicolas Ledoux, architect, Dormans-sur-Marne, 1736; Jean Paul Richter, humorist, Wunsiedel, Germany, 1763; Jean Baptiste Fourier, mathematician, Auxerre, France, 1768; Henry Kirke White, poet, Nottingham, 1785; Benito Juarez, President of Mexico 1861-72, San Pablo, Mexico, *1806; Modest Mussorgsky*, composer, Karevo, 1835; Albert Chevalier, music-hall entertainer, London, 1861; H.A.L. Fisher, historian, London, 1865; Florenz Ziegfeld, theatrical producer, Chicago, 1869; Hans Hofmann, painter, *Weissenberg, Germany, 1880*; Erich Mendelsohn, architect, Allenstein, East Prussia, 1887.

DEATHS: Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury 1533-56, burnt *at the stake*, Oxford, 1556; James Ussher, Archbishop of Armagh 1625-56, Reigate, Surrey, 1656; Samuel Parker, Bishop of Oxford 1686-88, Oxford, 1688; John Law, economist, Venice, 1729; Richard Dawes, scholar, Heworth, Newcastle, 1766; *Jean-Baptiste* Greuze, painter, Paris, 1805; Robert Southey, Poet Laureate 1813-43, Keswick, 1843; *William Scoresby*, clergyman and Arctic explorer, *Torquay, 1857; Sir Michael* Redgrave, actor, Denham, Buckinghamshire, 1985; Leo Fender, pioneer of the electric guitar, Fullerton, California, 1991.

Aneurin Bevan announced government proposals for a National *Health Service*, 1946.

Dr Kwame Nkrumah was elected *the first African Prime Minister* south of the Sahara, 1952.

Africans were massacred by police at Sharpeville, South Africa, 1960.

Alcatraz prison in the Bay of San *Francisco* closed, *1963*.

Dinners

HM Metropolitan Stipendiary Magistrates
Lord Bingham of Cornhill, the Lord Chief Justice, the Hon Mr Justice Gage, Mr David *Pannick*, QC, and Mr David Loy, CBE, the retiring *Senior Provincial* Stipendiary Magistrate, were the guests of HM Metropolitan Stipendiary Magistrates at their Annual Dinner held at the Middle Temple last night. The Chief *Metropolitan* Magistrate, Mr Peter Badge, *presided*.

Winston Churchill Memorial Trust
Lady Soames, Chairman of the Trustees of the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust, was the *host at a* dinner held last night at the Royal *Thames Yacht Club in honour* of Mr and Mrs Anthony Montague Brown to mark his relinquishing the chairmanship of the council of the trust. Mr Ian Beer, the newly appointed chairman of the council, was present.

13 Old Square, Lincoln's Inn
To mark the retirement of Mr E.W.H. Christie as Head of Chambers after 18 years, a Dinner was given at the Old Hall, Lincoln's Inn, on March 19, 1997, by past and present members of his for*mer Chambers* at 13 Old Square, Lincoln's Inn. Those present included: Lord Oliver of Aylmerton, Lord Nicholls of Birkenhead, the Right Hon Sir Brian Dillon, the *Hon Mr Justice* Blackburne, the Hon Mr Justice Rimer, Mr David Burton, Professor Sir Robert Jennings, QC, Mr R.W.M. *Dias*, Mr Richard Christie, Professor Kurt Lipstein, Mr John Hopkins and Mr Vijay Shankardass. In keeping with Chambers' tradition, the Junior Tenant, *Miss Rebecca Stubbs*, made a speech. Mr Michael Lyndon-Stanford, QC (joint Head of Chambers with Mr A.W.H. Charles, Treasury Counsel) also *spoke and presented a silver* snuffbox to Mr Christie.

Association of Chartered Certified Accountants
Mr Peter Langard, President of the *Association of Chartered Certified* Accountants, presided at the annual dinner of held last night at Guildhall. Mr Juan Herrera, President of the International *Federation of Accountants, was the* speaker. Among the guests were:

The High Commissioners for Zambia, *Malawi and Malta, the Acting High* Commissioners for South Africa, Mauritius and Trinidad and Tobago, the Chargé d'Affaires at the Slovak Embassy, *the Chief Economic Adviser* to the Treasury, the First Civil Service Commissioner and the Chairman of the Inland Revenue.

Industrial Tribunals for England and Wales
Judge Lawrence, the President of Industrial Tribunals for England and Wales, presided at a dinner for regional chairmen held last night at the Reform Club. Mr Justice *Morison, President of the Employ*ment Appeal Tribunal, Mr J. Maguire, President, Northern Ireland, and Mr M.B. Wilson, the Secretary of Tribunals, were among the guests.

Service dinners

HMS Collingwood
Vice-Admiral Sir Jonathan Tod, Deputy Commander Fleet, was the guest of honour at a wardroom mess guest night held last night onboard *HMS Collingwood*.

Royal Artillery
The American Ambassador and Mrs Crowe were present at the Royal Artillery spring dinner held last night at Woolwich. Field *Marshal Lord Vincent* of Coleshill, Master Gunner, St James's Park, presided. Among others present were:

The Mayor and Mayoress of Greenwich, the Right Rev Francis J. Walmsley, Sir Patrick Mayhew, QC, MP, and Lady Mayhew, Sir Harry and Lady Secombe, Major-General and Mrs Iain Mackay-Dick and Major-General and Mrs Eric Barton.

Southampton University Air Squadron
Air Vice-Marshal John Thompson, Air Officer Commanding Southampton University Air Squadron and Commandant RAF College Cranwell, *was the guest of* honour at the annual dinner of the squadron held last night at Boscombe Down. Squadron Leader S.P. Jarmain, Commanding Officer, presided.

Forthcoming marriages

Captain F.S. Acton and Miss A.R. Beck
The engagement is announced between Francis, *eldest son of Mr* and Mrs T.S. Acton, of Acton Scott, Shropshire, and Alison, youngest daughter of Reverend and Mrs G.S. Beck, *of Coniston, Cumbria*.

Mr G.M. Boyle and Miss S.K. Pearson
The engagement is announced between Gary, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Gerry Boyle, of Barnsley, Gloucestershire, and Sophie, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Barry Pearson, of Darley Dale, Derbyshire.

***Mr G.W. Buckley* and Miss M.A.R. Tomsen**
The engagement is announced between George William Buckley, of Lyme Regis, only son of the late James *William* and Phyllis Buckley, and Mary Angela Rhona Tomsen, of Northington, Hampshire, only daughter of the late Revd John and Mrs Tomsen.

Mr C.J. Davison and Miss V.L. Riding
The engagement is announced between Christopher, eldest son of Mr and Mrs *John Davison*, of Weybridge, Surrey, and Victoria, *only daughter* of Mr and Mrs Michael Riding, of Stoke Bishop, Bristol.

Mr M.W. Grindlay and Miss S.L. Hopkins
The engagement is announced between Max, younger son of the *late Mr* R.B. Grindlay and of Mrs J.M. Grindlay, of Long Itchington, Warwickshire, and Sarah, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Hopkins, of Brewood, Staffordshire.

Dr C.V. House and Miss C.L. Morgan
The engagement is announced between Charles, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Bill House, of Sevenoaks, Kent, and Caroline, daughter of Mrs Joan Morgan, of Newton *Stewart, Galloway* and the late Mr Barton T. Morgan.

***Mr G.R. Sataloff* and Miss C.E. Breslin**
The engagement is announced between Glenn, youngest son of the late Mr S.J. Sataloff and of Mrs *B. Sataloff*, of Northridge, California, USA, and Clare, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs P.J.R. Breslin, of Wimbledon, London.

Mr B.J. Taylor and Miss V.J. Griffiths
The engagement is announced *between Ben, elder son of Mr Rod* Taylor, of Hale, Cheshire, and Mrs Sarah Taylor, of Wilmslow, Cheshire, formerly of Alderley Edge, and Victoria, daughter of Mr and Mrs John *Griffiths*, of Bramhall, Cheshire.

Mr M.E.T. Tregonning and Miss M.A. Williamson
The engagement is announced between Martin, younger son of Mr and Mrs John Tregonning, of Auckland, New Zealand, and Margaret, daughter of Mr and Mrs Walter Williamson, of Codsall, Staffordshire.

Marriage

Mr M. Lyons and Mrs J. Rose
*The marriage took place on Tues*day, March 18, 1997, at Claridges, London, between Malcolm, son of Eve and Leo Lyons, and Joy, daughter of Mona and Cecil *Jacobs*.

Freemen of the City of London

The following have been installed as officers of the Guild of Freemen of the City of London for the ensuing year:

Master, Sir Anthony Grant, MP; *Senior Warden*, Mr Norman S. Munday; Renter Warden, Mr Terry Nemko; Junior Warden, Mr Joseph C.F.B. Byllam-Barnes; Under Warden, Mr D.M.B. Irving.

PERSONAL COLUMN

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

Then Jeremiah took another scroll and gave it to the scribe Baruch son of Neriah, who wrote on it at Jeremiah's dictation all the words of the book which Jehoiakim the king had burnt in the fire. Jeremiah 36 : 32

BIRTHS

APPLEBY - On 16th March, to Catrina and Geoff, a daughter, Sarah Elizabeth, a sister for Thomas.

BONHAM-CARTER - On March 17th 1997, to Katie (née Dawnay) and Crispin, a son, Arthur Thomas Patrick.

CATTANEO - On 18th March at The Portland Hospital, to Cristiana and Emilio, a daughter, Francesca, a sister for Stefano.

CHOTAI - *On March 18th 1997* at The Portland Hospital, to Krishna and Sundip, a son, Aman, a brother for Rahul.

DE MEESTER - On March 17th at The Portland Hospital, to Angeline (née Burne) and Charles, a daughter, Daisy Georgina.

GREGORY - On March 17th at The Portland Hospital, to Christine and Lyndam, a daughter, Dominique.

HAPPELL - On March 18th in Melbourne, Australia, to Tatty (née Joseland) and Michael, a daughter, Annabella, a sister for Edwina.

HARGREAVES - On March 13th at 9.49 pm, to Valerie and Matthew, Maximillian Marcus Day, a brother for Jessica.

HENDERSON - On 20th March, to Alexandra and James, a daughter, a sister for Felix and Atalanta.

JOHNSEN - On March 20th in Capetown, to Bridget and Julian, a son, Richard Augustus.

KEITH - On 18th March, to Eleanor (née Woodhead) and James, a daughter, Phoebe, a sister for Flavia and Sam.

KELLY - On 12th March 1997, to Fiona (née Cecil-Smith) and Miles, a son, James Richard, brother to Alexander.

KRABBÉ - On March 8th 1997, to Alice (née Grogan) and Christopher, a son, Charles James Hume.

MARTIN - On March 14th, to Clare (née Lewis) and Guy, a son, Edward.

BIRTHS

McCAFFREY - On 10th March 1997 at Princess Margaret Hospital, Windsor, to Marisa (née Trefry) and Tim, a son, Jack Trefry, a brother for Conor and Ryan.

MEALIN - To Fiona (née Shimwell) and Brent on Friday 7th March in Isle of Man a son, Alexander Brent Shimwell, a brother for Christopher.

MITCHELL - On March 14th at The Portland Hospital, to Yvonne, a son, Benjamin Ricardo, my bundle of joy.

MIZEN - On March 15th, to Julia (née Deadman) and Piers, a son, Christopher.

PECK - On 10th March, to Cindy (née Leslie) and Andrew, a daughter, Sophie Elizabeth, a sister for William and James.

PHILLIPS - On March 17th, to Louise (née Wilkins) and William, a son, Patrick.

PLUMMER - On 1st March, to Anna (née Mansfield) and Adam, a daughter, Eleanor Margaret Clementine.

SHEPHERD-CROSS - On March 19th, in Harrogate, to Dorte *and Harry, a son, Jack Henry*.

DEATHS

BEEBY-THOMPSON - Clarice died peacefully at The Dorny House Nursing Home, Sunningdale, on March 19th aged 94 years. Enquiries to Lines Bannister, 69 High Street, Ascot, (01344) 20266.

BRACK - Noël aged 94 years on 19th March 1997, peacefully at The Princess Alexandra Hospital Harlow, after a short illness. Beloved husband of Joyce, father of Terence and Meriel and father-in-law of Douglas and Christine. Funeral *Service* to be held at Parndon Wood Crematorium, Harlow, Essex on Wednesday 26th March at 12.30 pm. Flowers and all enquiries to the Funeral Director Daniel Robinson & Sons Ltd, Wych Elm, Harlow, Essex, tel: (01279) 426990.

BREEN - Victor John on 18th March, suddenly. He was dearly loved and will be sadly missed. All enquiries to H.D. Tribe Ltd., tel: (01903) 787188.

DEATHS

CLARKE - On 15th March, 1997 peacefully after 4½ years of exceptional care at the Dower House Nursing Home, Headbourne Worthy, Gladys (Stick) aged 94. Widow of the late W. de M. (Bill) Clarke, mother of *Denys and Sue, grandmother* of Michael, William and Giles. Formerly of Nunton (Salisbury), Stoke Poges, Jamaica and Chile. Funeral has already taken place, donations if desired to Salisbury Hospice Care Trust, c/o I.N. Newman Ltd., Griffin House, 55 Winchester Street, Salisbury, Wilts.

CONANT - Peter Edward Maurice peacefully on March 17th, dearly loved husband of Betty (Lisbeth). Private cremation on March 26th. No flowers but donations if desired for the Salisbury Hospice Care Trust c/o I.N. Newman, Griffin House, 55 Winchester Street, Salisbury SP1 1HL.

de MAUNY - Erik, suddenly, *in* Lancaster, on March 18th, aged 76. Much loved husband *of Elizabeth* and father of Marc and Alix - beloved of many friends. *Funeral Mass at St Peter's* Cathedral, Lancaster, 12 noon Wednesday 26th March. Burial in France. R.I.P. Flowers, or donations to the Parkinson's Disease Society.

DUNCAN - George peacefully in Tours, France, February *19th 1997. The funeral took* place in Tours. He is greatly missed by all his family since even in his absence his strength and conviction continue to support them. A Memorial Service has been arranged to celebrate and give thanks for his life.

EPPEL - Helen peacefully at home on 20th March. Much loved wife *of the late Dr.* Cecil Eppel and mother of Bee (Bettina). Funeral Service Monday 24th *March* 2.15 pm Golders Green Crematorium (East Chapel), Hoop Lane, NW11. Enquiries to M.M. Broad & Son, (0181) 445-2797.

FINNIS - Lilian May (née Pae), *widow of* Raymond, passed away peacefully on March 15th at Buckland Hospital, Dover, aged 83, following a fall earlier in the year. Beloved mother of Stephen and John and much loved grandmother and great-grandmother. Private cremation to take place at Barham on Thursday March 27th, followed by a Service of Thanksgiving at St Andrew's Church, Tilmanstone, at 1 pm. Please, no flowers, but donations, if desired, to World Vision, 599 Avebury Boulevard, Milton Keynes, MK9 3PG.

GIONIS - Nicolaos died peacefully on March 17th 1997 in Cardiff. Loving *husband of Fanni and loving* father of John, Evangelos and Panagioti. Grandfather to Nicholas, Paul, Mark and Nicolas. Family funeral at the Greek Orthodox Church, Cardiff, on Wednesday March 26th.

GREATHEAD - On March 19th peacefully at home in Kalk Bay, South Africa, Philip James Greathead aged 77. R.I.P.

HEATHCOAT AMORY - Margaret, widow of Bill, on 19th March in her 90th year. Beloved mother, *grandmother* and great-grandmother. Funeral Calverleigh Church, 2 pm on Monday 24th March. No flowers but donations if desired to Calvert Trust Exmoor, Wistlandpound, Barnstaple, North Devon, EX31 4SJ.

HERNER - Lazar on March 16th 1997 at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, at the age of 86 after several years of ill-health. He was the beloved husband of Tilly, the loving father of Richard and the adoring grandfather of James, Laurence (deceased), Rufus and *Millie*. The funeral took place on 20th March 1997 at the Liberal Jewish Cemetery, Pound Lane, Willesden. Condolence letters to H.J. Bent & Co, 1C Westminster Court, Aberdeen Place, London NW8 8JN.

JARVIS - The Reverend Wilfrid Harry passed peacefully away 10th March 1997, much loved husband of Jean and beloved father of Rebekah and David. Requiem Mass at St Matthias Church, Sneinton, Nottingham, *Tuesday 25th March* 12.30pm. Donations if desired to The Nottingham New Appeals Organisation c/o Lymns, Robin Hood House, Nottingham.

JEAVONS - Professor Peter Machin peacefully at his home March 17th 1997 aged 76 years. Beloved husband of Patsy, much loved father of Michael and father-in-law of Brenda and Maggie and a *devoted grandpa of* Ruth, Sarah, Emma and Rachel. Funeral Service at Lodge Hill Crematorium, Birmingham, on Monday, March 24th at 11.30 am. Family flowers only, donations if desired to Save the Children Fund c/o Thos. Furber & Co. Ltd., 122, *Station Road, Harborne*, Birmingham, B17 9LS.

McCORMICK - Stephen, on *March 19th, at home* in Hamilton, New Zealand (late of Purley, Surrey), husband of *Dorothy (Harland)*.

O'SULLIVAN - Sister Francis Xavier I.B.V.M., died suddenly March 17th 1997 at Loreto, Llandudno. Formerly Headmistress *Loreto Grammar School*, Nottingham. R.I.P. Requiem Mass Monday 24th March 1997 at 12 noon, Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish Church, Llandudno, North Wales.

PATON - Hamish Kinloch aged 51 years peacefully at home on 18th March after a short illness. Much loved husband of Marian and father of *Nicholas and Susan. Funeral* Service at the Chilterns Crematorium, Amersham, on 27th March at 2 pm. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to the Cancer Research Campaign. Enquiries (01494) 672668.

RUMSBY - Peter Lewis on *March 18th, devoted* husband of Margaret, loving father and grandfather. Thanksgiving Service at Milland Evangelical Church at 12 noon on March 25th.

ROWSON - On March 19th 1997 at the R.U.H. Bath, Rattcliff (Ratty) aged 75. Much loved husband of Elinor, father of Sallie and Fraser, Joanna and Philip and dearly loved Gratty of Duncan, Guy, Bryony and Rebecca. *Cremation private*. Thanksgiving Service at St John's Church, Hinton Charterhouse, on Thursday April 3rd at 11.30 am. Donations in lieu of flowers for the R.N.L.I. or Churches Conservation Trust c/o C.S. Bowyer Ltd., 2 The Bullpit, Bradford-on-Avon, BA15 1NB.

SHEPHARD - John Neville tragically on March 17th 1997 in Sydney, Australia, loving husband to Sarah, much loved son of *Neville* and the late Mary and dear brother of Alison and Helen. Formerly of East Claydon, Bucks. Funeral at St Mary's Church, East Claydon, on Wednesday April 2nd at 2pm. Family *flowers* only. Donations if desired to "John Shephard Memorial Fund" c/o 2 St Albans Road, Reigate, RH2 9LN. Further details from Heritage & Sons, Winslow, tel: *(01296)* 713341.

SMITH - On March 19th, 1997, Dorothy Helen, aged 101 years, wife of the late *Major* Sumner Hugh Smith, M.C. R.A.M.C. of Farningham Kent. Dear mother of Hope Caldicott and the late Antony and late Richard. Funeral private.

SOMERSET - On March 19th 1997 peacefully after a long illness, Edward John Somerset M.S. London, Indian Medical Service retired. Very much loved husband of Maev, dearest father of Daphne and Pamela, loved and loving grandfather of Robert, Peter and Alexandra. Service at the Harrogate Crematorium on Tuesday March 25th at 3 pm. Family flowers only, no letters please. Donations in memory may be given to Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund, 3 Fawcett Street, York YO1 4AH.

STONEY - Robert Oliver Vesey of Lough Crew, late of Rosturk, Newport, Co. Mayo, 19th March 1997, peacefully after a sudden illness. Loving and beloved husband of Ann, father of Benita, Robert, Alan, Eleanor and Charlotte. Funeral Service in Holy Trinity Church, Westport, at 2 pm Saturday 22nd March followed by interment at St Catherine's Church, Newport.

THOMAS - Suddenly but peacefully on Tuesday March 18th at the University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff, Gethyn, dearly beloved husband of Flyl, much loved father of Sian, Anne and Jeremy, adored grandfather of Gareth, Rhiannon, Olivia, Caroline and Ben, and affectionate father-in-law of Owen, David and Helen. Service to be held in Llandaff Cathedral at 12.30pm on Wednesday March 26th and afterwards to Cardiff Crematorium. No flowers please, donations if *desired to Friends of* Llandaff Cathedral, c/o 29 The Cathedral Green, Cardiff.

WOODS - Paul Anthony, much loved husband of Clare, father of Jamie and Hannah and son of Michael and Darice, peacefully on March 19th. Service at The Sacred Heart Church, Edge Hill, Wimbledon, on Tuesday March 25th at 10 am followed by cremation at *Putney Vale Crematorium*. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to The British Heart Foundation and Imperial Cancer Research c/o Mears & Cotterill, 169 Merton Road, Wandsworth SW18 5EF, tel: (0181) 874-7698.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

WALKER - Gillian Mary (née Badrock) 4th June 1954-21st March 1992. R.I.P.

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OBITUARIES

WILLEM DE KOONING

Willem de Kooning, artist, died on March 19 aged 92. He was born on April 24, 1904.

Willem de Kooning was the last surviving giant of modern art. He was at the centre of the American art movement known as Abstract Expressionism, which started in the 1940s in New York and went on to dominate American and European contemporary art for the next twenty years.

Abstract Expressionism was about liberation, freeing art from the things it no longer needed. It had its genesis in the experience of a generation which had spent its youth in a major economic depression and its young adulthood in a world war. It was personal and self-revelatory in style, yet evoked timeless emotions, fears and beliefs.

Even after its passing, right up to the art of today, the movement continues to exert a powerful influence. The styles that followed it, and which were in various ways reactions against it — Pop Art, Conceptualism and Minimalism, for example — all drew heavily on attitudes that were already in place in the Abstract Expressionist aesthetic, namely radical doubt and a profoundly ambivalent love-hate relationship with the past.

De Kooning's work went through considerable changes in his long life. He never lost touch altogether with figuration, but recognisable things seemed to come and go in his paintings. He painted pictures that were harsh angular abstracts, with gritty surfaces, which were understood to be metaphors for modern urban life. Other pictures were flowing and lyrical, with sweet, rich colour, and these were seen as poetic amalgams of natural landscape forms and the female body.

De Kooning himself changed too, from the art history book figure who reinvented the heroic early Modernism of Picasso and Matisse, recasting it for a new age, living in poverty until well into his forties; to the cultural icon, the Marlon Brando of the 1950s art world, good-looking in a T-shirt; achieving sudden and enormous wealth and fame; to the vulnerable man who descended into a semi-hell of drink and tranquillisers, but went on turning out works of startling originality, grace and beauty until old age and chronic illness finally caused him to stop working.

His style was to improvise extraordinary visual events. The improvising was high-energy and aggressive, an endless process of making, erasing and remaking. He famously alternated long bouts of frenzied activity with periods of staring and worrying. The final results are compelling. The pictures cannot be pinned down. They look ugly and elegant at the same time, direct and revealing, yet strange and ambiguous, too.

Willem de Kooning was born in Rotterdam, Holland. He was apprenticed at the age of 12 to a local company of commercial artists run by the decorators Jan and Jaap Gidding. His talent prompted Jaap to arrange for him to attend night classes at the local art and craft school, the *Akademie voor Beeldende en Technischen Wetenschappen*. There, over a period of eight years as a pupil, he acquired a strict academic training and a wide range of craft skills.

Graduating in 1926, he also attended art schools in Brussels and Antwerp. In art theory, the de Stijl group around Mondrian and Van Doesburg was then predominant. From 1920 to 1926, de Kooning worked as assistant to Bernard Romein, art director of a Rotterdam department store.

Setting his sights, however, on America (where Mondrian himself was to arrive years later in 1940), de Kooning, after several unsuccessful attempts, arrived in the United States as a stowaway in 1926. Working first as a house painter in Hoboken, New Jersey, he moved to New York in 1927, taking a variety of jobs in decorating, signwriting, carpentry, commercial art and stage design.

In the next few years de Kooning, who had become a "Sunday painter", became friends with Arshile Gorky, the Russian painter who had arrived in the US in 1920 and who was then teaching in New York.

Gorky was to paint de Kooning's portrait around 1937, as *Portrait of Master Bill*. Another friend was John Graham, born Ivan Dambrowsky in Kiev, painter, writer and collector, who brought many modern European ideas to art in America and whose portrait busts of strange, cross-eyed females may have influenced the images of women for which de Kooning was to become famous.

During the 1930s de Kooning made many uncompleted works, with three main themes: men, women, and abstraction. The men (a theme he dropped after the 1940s) and the women showed his admiration for Ingres in particular, and were realistic in style. The biomorphic, flat abstractions showed more of the influence of Arp, Miró, and Picasso, along with the linear structures of de Stijl. But it was not until 1935 that de Kooning decided to give all his time to fine art.

In the early 1940s, de Kooning's studies of women lost their realistic appearance and began to mingle with the background paint and colours. In the mid-1940s his paintings grew more violent, with accident increasingly determining their composition. Sometimes collage was used to break them up, and in 1946 he embarked on a series of even more violent black-and-white paintings, done with cheap household enamels, which marked the final disappearance of recognisable form in his work. His first one-artist exhibition was at the Egan Gallery in 1948, although he had already shown with other artists such as Jackson Pollock.

By 1950 the Abstract Expressionist movement was well under way. Pollock, de Kooning, Gorky, Clyfford Still, Mark Rothko and Barnett Newman had made a name for themselves. The gestural freedoms of de Kooning and Hans Hofmann, especially, inspired a new generation. And since up-and-coming artists could enrol in Hofmann's art school on Eighth Street and meet de Kooning any night at the Cedar Street Tavern or around East Tenth Street, they became the "New York School".

De Kooning was a brilliant and passionate conversationalist, and was admired by the younger generation for his integrity and dedication to art, and for his risk-taking — or "going for broke", in the language of the times. He was imitated right across America.

Despite all his experience of abstraction in his own and his friends' work, human reference never quite disappeared from de Kooning's art. His art seemed to develop under conflicting pressures. He said that it is absurd to paint a human image but just as absurd not to. He wanted to stay ahead of his critics, to escape their pigeonholing. But at the same time he wanted to play with them, to draw them along.

Having achieved notoriety with what might be described as a kind of allusive abstraction, he suddenly lurched, in the early 1950s, into what seemed like full-blown figuration. He painted wild nightmare sex goddesses, like female versions of Frankenstein's monster, their body parts — faces, breasts, teeth, limbs — only partly coordinated.

His *Woman I* (1950-52) — seen in London in 1959 when the epoch-making show *The New American Painting* arrived at the Tate Gallery — became his most famous image. It was likened by one critic to "Mother Kali walking the New York streets as a bag-lady". De Kooning himself was surprised that nobody ever noticed how funny his "Women" paintings were.

For all their spontaneous appearance as savage, demonic daubs, de Kooning's female images have often a long history of radical daily repaintings and changes of mood. His own awareness of tradition — in contrast to the self-consciously independent attitude of some of the more "American" painters of the New York School — and strong sense of composition are always present.

De Kooning said that art never made him feel "peaceful or pure". Instead he was always "wrapped up in the melodrama of vulgarity". And his art over the next thirty years was indeed a triumph of impurity. In the 1960s and 1970s, when he was no longer at the centre of art world discussion, the women became more comic and cartoon-like, the landscapes more melted and misty, the brushwork more liquid and glutinous, the colour more bruised and effulgent. For some years after 1969, de Kooning took up sculpture.

Many critics have argued that de Kooning's work declined after the 1950s. As his fame grew and his market value rose, he became increasingly isolated from critics and other artists. He had moved out of Manhattan to a quiet, purpose-built studio home in Long Island. His behaviour became erratic and self-destructive. He had already been drinking heavily when he was young, and by the late 1970s he was extremely ill. Nursed by his wife, Elaine de Kooning, from whom he had long been separated, he made a partial recovery and began painting after a two-year break.

De Kooning's central position through the decades of the New York School (ultimately as its elder statesman) was dramatically underlined in May 1987, when his *Pink Lady* of 1944 set a record price for a living artist, of $3.63 million — only subsequently exceeded, in prices for postwar painting, by the work of Jackson Pollock and Jasper Johns. Then in November 1989, de Kooning's *Interchange* of 1955 set a further, vastly increased, record of $20.68 million — selling to a Japanese collector.

In 1989, when he was in his mid-eighties, de Kooning was announced to be suffering from Alzheimer's disease. His daughter, Lisa de Kooning, issued a statement that he had been declared legally incompetent, and after that his life was organised on a daily basis by teams of nurses and lawyers. He stopped painting in 1990. He had exhibited very little in the 1980s but soon some of the paintings from that decade, which had been hidden in his studio, began appearing in public exhibitions and subsequently in the auction houses, where they fetched high prices.

These late paintings, made partly with the aid of assistants, are curiosities rather than masterpieces. They marked another radical stylistic break. The colours were reduced to stark primaries and white, and where there had been rich, atmospheric spaces, there was now a recurring flat, almost diagrammatic configuration, part female anatomy, part landscape. The shapes were like schematic versions of his earlier paintings, and in fact many of them were based on slide projections of earlier works.

But were these pictures really "de Koonings" at all? He had painted them, but was he really himself at the time? How far back had he become ill? He could no longer sign his own name when many of them were executed. Surely, it was objected, significant art is not just a matter of unfettered emotion and creativity, but relies also on a build-up of knowledge and experience, on high mental alertness?

The critical and philosophical speculations that the pictures aroused when they appeared were thrown into lurid relief by the fact that their market value was in the region of a million dollars per painting, and that there were known to be about three hundred of them. A number were gathered together at the Museum of Modern Art in New York earlier this year, and the reception was mixed.

In the end it may be that de Kooning's last great flowering — his period of late greatness, like the famous late periods of Matisse or Titian, say, — was not the 1980s but the 1970s. This was the time when he perhaps felt most free from outside pressures, and was able — physically, emotionally and spiritually — to make something unique and significant out of that freedom.

Elaine Marie Catharine Fried, whom de Kooning married in 1943 and who as Elaine de Kooning won her own considerable reputation as a painter and writer, died in 1989. De Kooning is survived by his daughter.

JACQUES FOCCART

Jacques Foccart, special adviser on African affairs to Presidents de Gaulle, Pompidou and Chirac, died in Luzarches, near Paris, on March 19 aged 83. He was born on August 31, 1913, at Ambrières-les-Vallées, in the Department of Mayenne.

FOR forty years, Jacques Foccart played the leading and often conspiratorial role in maintaining France's ties and influences in the African countries that had once been part of the French Empire. He was so successful that, despite the decolonisation decreed by his idol, General de Gaulle, at the start of the 1960s, France was able to retain a protective role that paid economic dividends in raw materials, notably oil, but, above all, in strategic influence.

With his famous networks, or *réseaux*, of political, military and secret service contacts, Foccart was the architect of a form of neo-colonialism, backed by contingents of French paratroops, that has only recently shown signs of cracking with the advent of new, more democratic, leaders in the 1990s and, to an extent, the rise in American influence in the region. Foccart's last crusade was against what he considered American plotting in France's African *domaine réservé*.

The death of the Frenchman known as "L'Africain" ironically coincided with the decline of the regime of President Mobutu of Zaire, a French-speaking despot he had long supported. Mobutu was a frequent visitor to Foccart's house near Paris and the Frenchman's backing was largely instrumental in his remaining welcome in France to this day.

Other African leaders of French-speaking states had need over the years for more muscular support. It was said that Foccart had standing orders from them to intervene with French troops when necessary. Only the dates were kept blank on these documents in Foccart's office in the Elysee Palace. He helped to restore the deposed President Leon Mba in Gabon in 1964 and later supported Mba's successor Omar Bongo, whose long reign has been a typical example of France's post-colonial African connection, based as it is on a trade-off of Gabonese oil, via the French Elf company, and a French military garrison.

Some of his protégés, however, proved to be disasters, none more so than the late self-styled Emperor Jean-Bedel Bokassa, of the Central African Republic-cum-Empire, who was later overthrown but settled in France like so many other ex-dictators, some of whom lived in style on the Riviera.

Foccart, who had founded the Gaullist movement's own paramilitary organisation, thrived on secrecy and the nature of his ties, for example, to Colonel Bob Denard, tragicomic leader of several African coups d'état, was never clear. He always told interviewers that they could read everything later in the archives. The only boast he could not resist was that he had held an estimated 3,000 tête-à-tête meetings with de Gaulle over the eleven-year period between de Gaulle's return to power in 1958 and his resignation in 1969.

De Gaulle was the guiding force in the life of Foccart, who was born into a family of prosperous farmers and then raised in Guadeloupe where the family also had land. Later, in France, he went into business — notably the sale of Renault cars in the French West Indies — and did well.

The destiny of this short, rather rotund, fastidiously-dressed provincial businessman was changed by the war. He organised parachute drops on behalf of the secret service branch of the Free French in London. After the Liberation, de Gaulle rewarded him with the post of aide-de-camp and special adviser on France's overseas departments and African colonies.

Foccart was to accompany de Gaulle on several major African tours in the 1950s. In the meantime, he had been one of a small group of faithful supporters, which had set up the first postwar Gaullist political party, the RPF (Rassemblement du Peuple Français). He became the RPF's general secretary in 1954 and was well placed to take part in the manoeuvring and plotting that led to the Algiers putsch of May 13, 1958, which preceded de Gaulle's return to power.

From that moment, he had his own office in the Elysée with overall responsibility for African affairs and the secret services. He had direct access to de Gaulle and it was said that, when another generals' putsch in Algiers in 1961 threatened de Gaulle's hold on power, the French President entrusted important state papers and "fall-back" emergency plans to Foccart. De Gaulle always referred to Foccart as "le Père Joseph", a title of approval denoting his possessing many of the secretive and serviceable qualities of Cardinal Richelieu's original *éminence grise* of that name.

De Gaulle and Foccart both loathed transparency. The former considered secrecy an indispensable part of the mystique of power, the latter a necessary tool in his dealings, which included an about turn on Algérie Française, which he supported, and then adapting to sub-Saharan decolonisation.

His power was such that French police officers were persuaded to take part in the abduction (and, almost certainly, the murder) in Paris in 1965 of Mehdi Ben Barka, the Moroccan opposition leader, by a secret service man, telling them "Foccart is in the picture".

He was a founder of the notorious Service d'Action Civique, the Gaullist Party's internal police force, later accused by the Americans of engaging in drug trafficking. To these and other accusations Foccart would reply that de Gaulle would not have kept him for 24 hours, let alone 24 years, if any of the charges had been true.

De Gaulle was fascinated by Africa. Although he had granted independence to colonies in West and Central Africa he saw these states as essential backing for France's role in the world and in forums such as the UN. Foccart, who listed his occupation as "exporter", as well as Secretary-General for the French Community and African Affairs, engaged in the daily task of maintaining harmonious and profitable relations with France's African supporters, notably the long-time Ivory Coast leader, Felix Houphouet-Boigny. Foccart's main listening post was in Dakar, Senegal, the one-time capital of French West Africa.

President Pompidou retained his services, but Giscard d'Estaing, implicated in a diamonds scandal with Bokassa, did not. President Chirac rehired Foccart upon his election in 1995, and the old Africa hand once again had an official office. He certainly had Chirac's ear and helped to perpetuate the system whereby African policy is dictated by the Elysée and not by the Quai d'Orsay.

He dictated his memoirs two years ago, but revealed very little except French support for the Biafrans in the late 1960s, supposedly in return for oil for Elf. He continued to receive African leaders in Paris and it was said he knew the names of most of their children.

He was predeceased by his wife Isabelle.

ON THIS DAY

March 21, 1925

Rose Marie was to have a very long run at Drury Lane and was later revived. It was a triumph for Edith Day, who later starred in such successes as The Desert Song *and* Show Boat.

"ROSE MARIE." MUSICAL COMEDY AT DRURY LANE.

"Bless thee, thou art translated," Quince was saying each night a little while ago to his fellow actor in the play within a play at the Drury Lane Theatre. Then it was the actor who was "translated." Last night we could not help feeling that the theatre had been "translated," too. Then there was Shakespeare: now there is very modern fare from America. Then we were looking at "the parts about" Athens: now we have the Canadian Rockies. Then there was *A Midsummer Night's Dream*: now there is a winter's day dream, for the heroine falls in love among snow-capped mountains, only to fall out of it in the town and to fall back into it again at the end. Then too we had comedy; now we have music, for *Rose Marie* is carefully described not as a "musical comedy" but as a "musical piece." The latter it certainly is, for the music is distinctly above the average, and the singing throughout is admirable. The former it can hardly claim to be yet, for in spite of all Mr. Billy Merson's whimsicalities, the humour is a trifle slender. The comedy may come later and, when it does, *Rose Marie* will be as pleasant a light entertainment as any in London.

Last night the first part, especially, was inclined, owing to the lack of humour, to drag a little. In retrospect, the whole of the first act seems to have been devoted to the farewells, both spoken and musical, between Miss Edith Day and Mr. Derek Oldham. They loved, but nobody seemed to like them to love, and to ensure their parting until the last scene, a murder, of which the hero was soon falsely accused, was committed on the stage. There were more farewells, and in the second act the lovers said "Goodbye" again but at last all ended happily. Apart from the protracted farewells, the plot is quite effective, and has considerably more substance than one is led to expect in this kind of production.

Two things were especially impressive last night. One was the music, which was much more ambitious than the normal musical comedy score. It is the work of Mr. Rudolf Friml and Mr. Herbert Stothart. The second was the amazing "mass drill" of the members of the chorus, more than 100 in number who, in one song especially ("Totem Tom Tom" was its name), roused the audience to unusual enthusiasm. The singing throughout, both of the chorus and the principals, was unusually good. The piece was received with enthusiasm.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE ISSUE THE POLITICIANS WON'T DISCUSS. The Monarchy and the Election. Claire Raynor, Paul Flynn MP, Anthony Holden, Roy Greenslade (Ir editor Daily Mirror on "The great TV debate"), Edward Pearce (columnist on the Windsors), Philip Hall (on royal finances), Chair Professor Stephen Haseler (on the monarchy and the election). Also, video presentations, motions, debates, questions, reports, elections, refreshments. REPUBLIC People before Privilege 2pm Saturday 22 March at the University of Westminster (Lecture Theatre 2), 309 Regent St London W1 (nearest tube Oxford Circus). All welcome

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NEWS

Major lets rip at Blair and Ashdown

■ John Major unleashed a venomous assault on Tony Blair and Paddy Ashdown yesterday that reflected his belief that they had hijacked the final days of Parliament with a stage-managed row over sleaze.

Mr Major delivered a personal tirade against Mr Blair, accusing him of trading on double standards from the moment he was elected Labour leader. He then turned on the Lib-Dem leader, telling him that he was ending the Parliament as pious and pompous as he had been throughout it .... **Pages 1, 8, 9**

Ten MPs who have to wait

■ As the Commons rises today, ten Tory MPs have investigations hanging over them. A Commons investigation into accusations against 25 MPs failed yesterday to decide on the ten, including Neil Hamilton .... **Page 1**

Home help cut

In a judgment that dismayed organisations representing the infirm, the House of Lords said councils can stop providing disabled people with home help if budgets are used up.......... **Page 1**

Shares tumble

London shares suffered their biggest one-day fall, with the FT-SE 100 index closing 74.1 points lower at 4,258.1................ **Pages 1, 25**

'Right to die' case

In what is seen as a new "right to die" test case, the most senior family judge will rule today on whether a severely brain-damaged former university student should be allowed to die...**Page 2**

Barrister's fall

The Hon Hugh Donovan, the barrister son of a former Law Lord, faces professional disgrace after he repeatedly vandalised a Porsche 911 and a Range Rover belonging to neighbours after a parking dispute ....**Page 3**

Cell-block candidate

Roisin McAliskey, an IRA bombing suspect, declared she would contest her mother Bernadette's old Mid-Ulster seat from her London prison cell .... **Page 4**

Portugal challenged

The Foreign Office demanded a full report from Portuguese police who opened fire on Manchester United fans with rubber *bullets*...................... **Pages 5, 20**

CJD diagnosis

Tens of thousands of people may die from the new strain of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, scientists said .... **Page 6**

Racism charge

A survey of the Armed Services and the MoD says that racism is "deeply entrenched" in the forces. The Royal Navy is the worst culprit ....**Page 7**

Our man in Tirana

Anthony Loyd, *The Times* special correspondent in Tirana, was having his supper when a Special Services major phoned him to ask: *"Have you got a car?" It was* the start of a daring journey to rescue occupants of a besieged British-run orphanage in southern Albania ....**Pages 16, 21**

Palestinian fury

Israeli soldiers fired teargas to break up the first of many demonstrations by Palestinians protesting at the building of a settlement in east Jerusalem............ **Page 17**

Uneasy summit

Presidents Clinton and Yeltsin met in Helsinki for a two-day summit touted as the toughest such encounter since the end of the Cold War .... **Page 11**

Papua rampage

Sir Julius Chan, Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, suspended a £17 million contract to hire British mercenaries as violence gripped Port Moresby .... **Page 15**

The chinos man makes his mark

■ The woolly cardigan, with buttons down the front, is dead as a male fashion statement. For years, cardigans have been one of 600 items whose costs are monitored to compile the retail price index. But they have now been dropped from the statistician's shopping basket in favour of chinos. Light and pale ale have gone too, replaced by beer cans with widgets .... **Page 1**

CHRIS HARRIS

Helen Sharman, left, the first Briton to travel in space on a US mission, and Valentina Tereshkova, the first woman launched into space 34 years ago in a Russian military rocket, met yesterday at The Royal Institution of Great Britain

BUSINESS

Shares: Norwich Union is to issue 1.3 billion free shares to 2.9 million members as part of a proposed £5 billion flotation in June .....**Page 25**

Inflation: The retail price index fell again in February. Headline inflation edged lower to 2.7 per cent from 2.8 per cent in January while underlying inflation fell to 2.9 per cent from 3.1 per cent.........**Page 25**

Insurer: Legal & General has suggested a resolution to the long-running pensions mis-selling scandal of the late 1980s ....**Page 25**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index fell 74.1 points to 4258.1. The sterling index was unchanged at 96.3, with *the pound* falling .28 cents to $1.5940 but rising .36 pfennigs to DM2.6886........................ **Page 28**

SPORT

Football: Nicky Butt, the Manchester United midfielder, has been included in the England squad for the first time for the international against Mexico at Wembley on Saturday week .... **Page 48**

Cricket: Tony Pigott, the former Sussex fast bowler who triggered the revolution that drove out the old committee, has been made director of cricket and acting chief executive of the club .... **Page 43**

Tennis: Tim Henman, the British No 1 competing in the Lipton championships in Florida, was voted most improved player of the year ....**Page 45**

Racing: Frankie Dettori returned with a sparkling double on the first day of the new Flat season at Doncaster.........................**Page 41**

ARTS

Second impression: The cast of *Art* has changed but the hit West End comedy with elements of tragedy is still playing to packed houses ....**Page 35**

Talk and Mindy: Rising country and western singer Mindy McReady *explains why the CD-buying* public finds her a fresh change from gals in spangles and lonesome cowboy clones ....**Page 36**

Bloody marvellous: Wynton Marsalis' *Blood On The Fields* is a triumph of the jazzman's art, an extended composition on the theme of slavery that is 45 minutes too long but unmissable.........**Page 36**

Slice Boys: The name of this band is ... Cake; the music is quirky, eclectic American rock filed under A for "alternative" ....**Page 37**

Home front: Forget cooking; if you want to be truly trendy, Joe Joseph is told, put away the pesto and get into home decoration. So why does he have his doubts?............**Page 18**

Celtic hero: Valerie Grove meets Professor Roy Foster, the historian and biographer who took on the tricky subject of the man he calls "one of the geat actors in Irish history", W.B. Yeats ....**Page 19**

EDUCATION

Labour lesson: "Our proposals will demand a great deal of imagination from all those involved — and much change." David Blunkett outlines Labour's plans for education........................ **Page 38**

Building blocks: A firm of architects has helped seven and eight-year-olds to design their school playground .... **Page 38**

Activity holidays: Measures taken since the Lyme Bay tragedy to ensure that the taste of adventure does not turn sour .... **Page 38**

THE PAPERS

The future stability of Europe depends more than anything on stability in Russia. Rather than taking actions that may isolate Russia and encourage a resurgence of Russian nationalism, the United States ought to concentrate on trying to help Russia rebuild its faltering economy ... and make democracy irreversible

— *The New York Times*

Preview: Telephone at the ready, they want to hear from you. *Tomorrow's World: Megalab 97* (BBC1, 8pm) **Review:** Matthew Bond goes eel fishing (again)............ **Page 47**

Right to know

Far from lancing the boil, the infection has spread. It is in the interest of the accused MPs and in the interest of the voters that the facts are known. The case for prompt publication of Sir Gordon's report is stronger than ever.........**Page 21**

Hello Dolly

The Commons Committee on Science and Technology is right to call for a full-scale inquiry during the next Parliament into how MAFF commissions and uses research and scientific advice..........**Page 21**

Our Man in our Volvo

Our own correspondents still sometimes march towards the sound of the gunfire, find the news and file the copy. And we who read it should occasionally salute them..............................**Page 21**

MATTHEW PARRIS

As Mr Blair heads towards Downing Street, I can feel, almost touch, hanging in the air around him, the gathering *Schadenfreude* he has attracted over all those Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. It is a dangerous way to start.... **Page 20**

PHILIP HOWARD

"Bunter!" The Speaker's voice was not loud, but deep. It was heard distinctly by all ears in the Big School form-room: excepting, apparently, one pair of very fat ears. "BUNTER!" The Speaker's voice was much louder, and deeper. Still Bunter did not reply .... **Page 20**

LYNNE TRUSS

A visit to Monte Carlo proves a disappointment, despite the proximity of Alan Shearer, the injured striker, as Newcastle United make a spectacle of themselves against AS Monaco .... **Page 46**

Willem de Kooning, artist; **Jacques Foccart**, special adviser on African affairs to three French Presidents.......................... **Page 23**

LETTERS

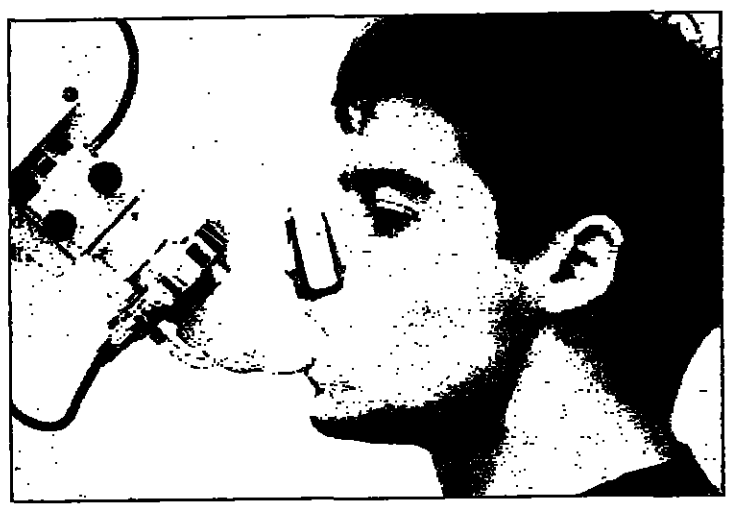
The election; film censor and *Clash*; Nato enlargement; aid for Albania................................**Page 21**

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ CAR 97
How a fitness trainer to the stars puts Volvo's top drivers through their paces

■ MAGAZINE
Elizabeth McGovern, the American actress who has made an Atlantic crossing



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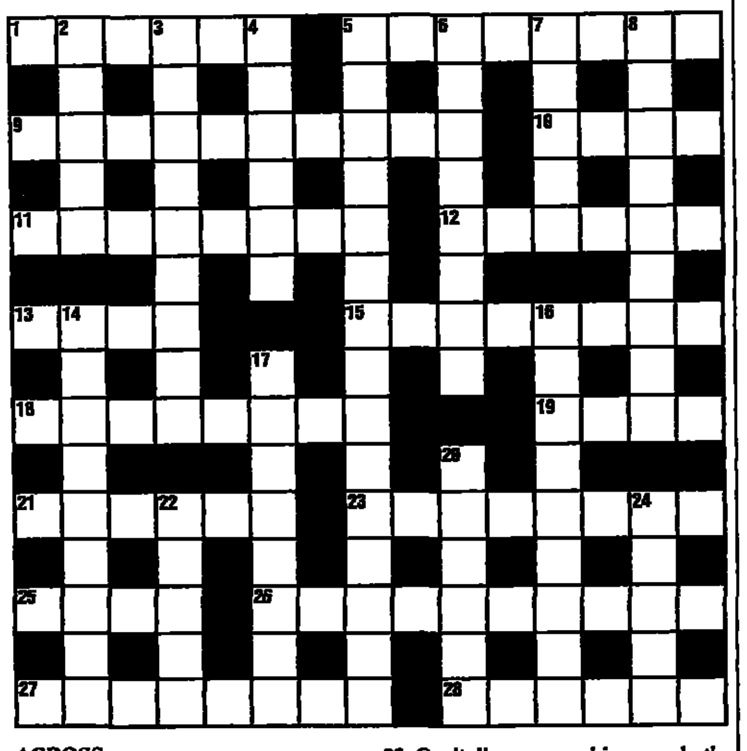


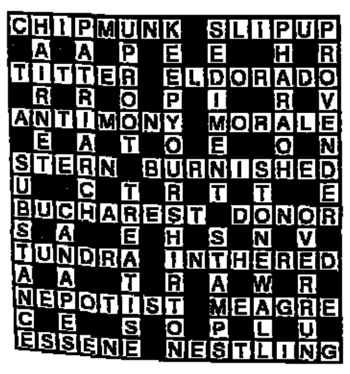
ACROSS

1 Part of shoe conforming with others (6).
5 Collapse under strain, having accepted a freebie (8).
9 "R" for "Reckoning"? (10).
10 For instance, go for disabled quarry (4).
11 Garden tool has cut round – it helps to put heel in (8).
12 Without you, as they say, what's left to settle? (6).
13 Singer, mid-morning, finally got out of bed (4).
15 Sallying out in striking fashion (8).
18 Two coins (one new, one old) – this should cover stamp (8).
19 Policeman putting mafioso finally inside prison cell (4).
21 Creature once regarded as divine, namely horse (6).
23 Capitalism, anarchism – both hold charm (8).
25 Wander around city, talking (4).
26 Spy or nark – 'e gets busily involved (4,6).
27 Criminal takes two fools in (8).
28 Join up broken lines, given time (6).

DOWN

2 None of relay team have set off in this direction (5).
3 Where cobbler should stick throughout life (2,3,4).
4 Englishmen in Perth rapidly firing gun (3-3).
5 When it's very cold, one may look sharp (3,4,6,2).
6 Chap with a passion for church architecture (8).
7 "A", for instance, stands for "Auspices" (5).
8 A jolly bad fuss about it – Kipling described how it started (9).
14 None the less, corrosion's ruined this medal (4,5).
16 Derived from forebears from parts of Lancaster (9).
17 Doctor visited Sanders' subordinate (8).
20 Pass by the Spanish Church's eastern end (6).
22 Steps taken to eliminate salt from cake (5).
24 Plant arbours? (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,432



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Times Two Crossword, page 48

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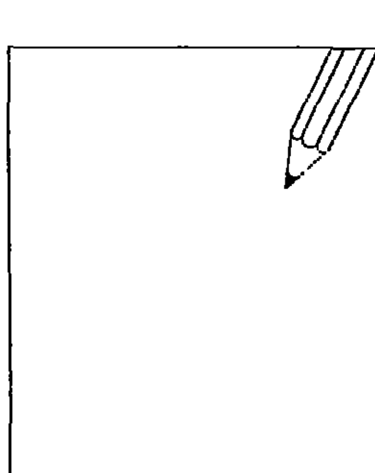
HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 6.01 am
Sun sets: 6.15 pm
Moon sets 4.51 am
Moon rises 3.40 pm

Full moon March 24

London 6.15 pm to 5.59 am
Bristol 6.25 pm to 6.09 am
Edinburgh 6.29 pm to 6.10 am
Manchester 6.24 pm to 6.07 am
Penzance 6.37 pm to 6.21 am



FORECAST

General: England and Wales dry with sunny spells, cloudy later in North and West. Light winds, pleasantly warm, especially in South. Scotland and Northern Ireland mainly dry at first. Cloudy later. Rain will spread across western and northern Scotland, snow on high ground. Cold in NE Scotland.

☐**London, SE England, Central S England, E Midlands, W Midlands, S Wales, N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Central N, N Ireland:** sunny spells. Wind mainly northerly, light to moderate. Warm. Max 12 (54F).

☐**E Anglia, E England, NE England:** bright or sunny intervals. Wind fresh becoming light. Max 9C (48F).

☐**Channel Isles, SW England:** rather cloudy at first, becoming brighter later. Wind north-easterly, light to moderate. Max 11C (52F).

☐**Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen:** mainly dry, sunny spells. Cloudy later. Wind light northwesterly, southerly later. Max 7C (5F).

☐**SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Argyll, NW Scotland, Orkney:** mainly dry at first, becoming cloudy with rain or drizzle. Wind becoming moderate to fresh. Max 10C (50F).

☐**Shetland:** sun, showers dying out later. Rain in evening. Wind fresh becoming moderate. Max 6C (43F).

☐ **Outlook for Saturday and Sunday:** Rain in north spreading to most parts.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

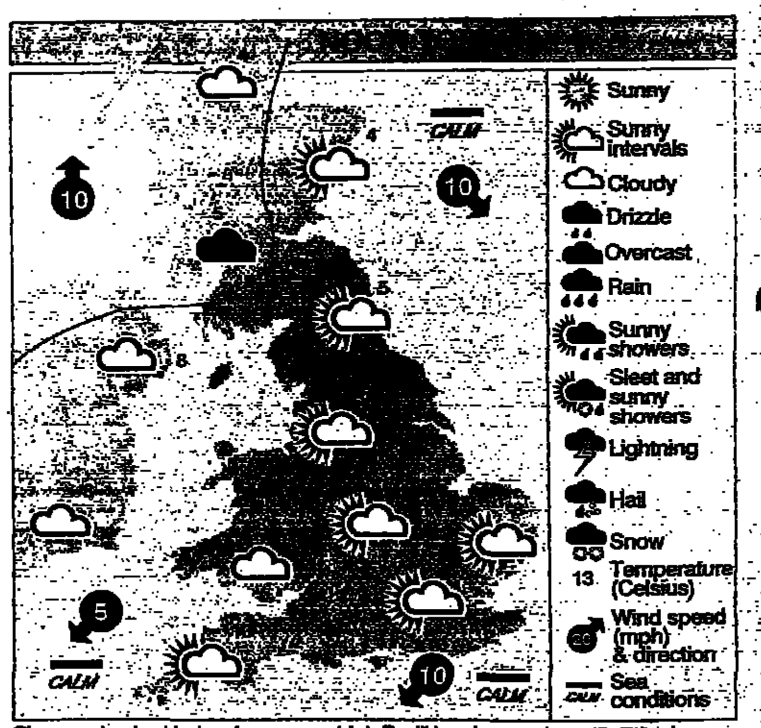
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	7.5	0.01	8	46	sh	Leuchars	7.7	-	11	52	s
Anglesey	0.2	0.02	10	50	r	Littlehmptn	10.4	-	14	57	s
Aspatria	5.4	0.05	13	55	d	London	8.4	-	14	57	s
Aviemore	3.9	0.04	7	45	h	Lowestoft	4.5	0.01	11	52	s
Belfast	1.8	0.01	10	50	c	Manchester	0.8	0.02	10	50	d
Birmingham	2.8	0.01	11	52	c	Margate	6.7	-	13	55	s
Bognor R	11.0	-	15	59	s	Minehead	6.7	-	13	55	s
Bournem'th	9.9	-	14	57	s	Morecambe	2.0	0.03	10	50	r
Bristol	5.8	-	12	54	b	Newcastle	6.1	0.02	11	52	s
Buxton	-	0.18	7	45	sh	Newquay	10.2	-	11	52	s
Cardiff	5.8	-	11	52	b	Norwich	3.7	0.02	11	52	r
Clacton	9.0	-	12	54	s	Oxford	6.3	-	13	55	b
Colwyn Bay	0.1	0.01	10	50	c	Penzance	X	-	15	59	s
Cromer	1.2	0.01	9	48	sh	Ross-o-wye	4.1	-	12	54	s
Eastbourne	8.5	-	11	52	s	Salcombe	9.4	-	15	59	s
Edinburgh	9.0	0.01	12	54	s	Sandown	9.8	-	13	55	s
Exmouth	8.0	-	13	55	s	Saunton Snd	5.0	-	12	54	s
Falmouth	X	-	13	55	s	Scarboro'	2.0	0.01	10	50	sh
Folkestone	8.8	-	12	54	s	Shanklin	10.0	-	11	52	s
Glasgow	10.1	0.01	12	54	s	Southport	0.7	0.04	9	48	d
Guernsey	9.6	0.01	13	55	s	Southsea	9.3	-	13	55	s
Hastings	9.1	-	13	55	s	Stornoway	8.5	0.02	8	46	sh
Hayling I.	10.3	-	13	55	s	Swanage	8.9	-	13	55	s
Herne Bay	7.0	0.01	13	55	s	Teignmouth	9.8	-	14	57	s
Hove	9.3	-	13	55	s	Tenby	3.5	-	11	52	s
Hunstanton	X	0.02	10	50	f	Torquay	10.4	-	15	59	s
Isle of Man	2.6	0.01	10	50	b	Tynemouth	-	-	10	50	s
Jersey	10.4	-	12	54	s	Ventnor	9.9	-	11	52	s
Kinloss	5.3	0.01	9	48	sh	West-s-mare	6.2	-	13	55	s
Leeds	3.0	0.01	11	52	r	Weymouth	9.2	-	11	52	b

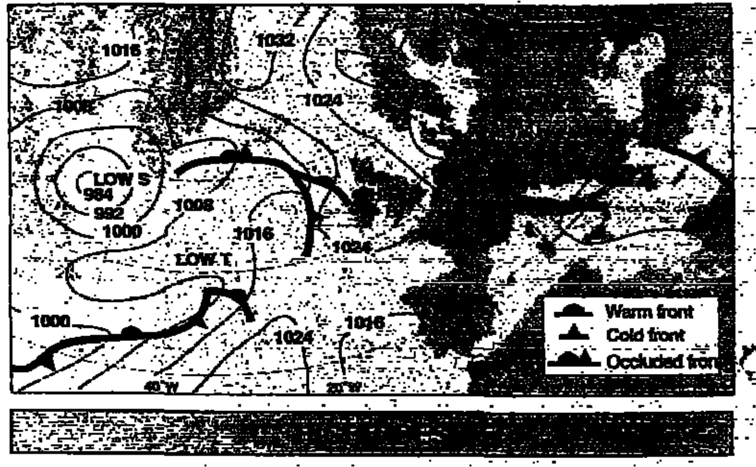
ABROAD

Ajaccio	16	61	f	Corfu	16	61	f	Majorca	22	72	s	Rome	18	64	f
Akrotiri	12	54	s	C'phagn	0	32	c	Malaga	21	70	s	S Fr'sco	20	68	s
Alex'dria	18	64	s	Dublin	10	50	f	Malta	17	63	s	S Paulo	27	81	f
Algiers	24	75	s	Dubrovnik	13	55	c	Melb'rne	23	73	f	Salzburg	6	43	c
Amst'dm	8	46	r	Faro	21	70	s	Mexico C	18	64	f	Santiago	19	66	c
Athens	13	55	c	Florence	17	63	f	Miami	27	81	s	Seoul	15	59	s
B Aires	27	81	f	Frankfurt	7	45	c	Milan	18	64	s	Sing'por	33	91	f
Bahrain	21	70	s	Funchal	16	61	f	Montreal	-1	30	s	St'kholm	-1	30	s
Bangkok	33	91	s	Geneva	6	43	c	Moscow	-5	23	c	Strasb'rg	7	45	c
Barbados	29	84	s	Gibraltar	25	77	s	Munich	7	45	c	Sydney	30	86	s
Barcelona	15	59	f	Helsinki	-4	25	sn	N Delhi	26	79	s	Tangier	21	70	s
Beirut	12	54	f	Hong K	22	72	s	N York	3	37	f	Tel Aviv	17	63	s
Belgrade	7	45	f	Innsbrck	9	48	f	Nairobi	27	81	f	Tenerife	23	73	s
Berlin	3	37	d	Istanbul	6	43	s	Naples	16	61	f	Tokyo	14	57	f
Bermuda	19	66	s	Jeddah	26	79	s	Nice	18	64	s	Toronto	1	34	s
Biarritz	13	55	f	Jo'burg	21	70	X	Oslo	2	36	s	Tunis	24	75	s
Borde'x	14	57	c	L Angels	18	64	s	Paris	10	50	c	Valencia	27	81	s
Brussels	8	46	r	L Palmas	21	70	s	Peking	12	54	s	Vanc'ver	11	52	r
Budapst	-2	28	sn	Le Tquet	9	48	f	Perth	24	75	s	Venice	13	55	s
Cairo	21	70	f	Lisbon	22	72	s	Prague	6	43	r	Vienna	1	34	s
Cape Tn	24	75	c	Locarno	15	59	s	Reykjavik	-1	30	sn	Warsaw	0	32	f
Ch'church	18	64	X	Luxembg	6	43	r	Rhodes	11	52	s	Wash'ton	3	37	c
Chicago	6	43	s	Luxor	25	77	s	Rio de J	28	82	f	Wel'ngton	19	66	X
Cologne	7	45	r	Madrid	20	68	s	Riyadh	23	73	s	Zurich	7	45	f

Temperatures at midday local time Wednesday. X = not available



Changes to chart below from noon: high B will be slowmoving with little change. Low S will drift northwards and fill. Low T will run northeastwards and deepen.



TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	00.06	6.4	12.33	6.7	Leith	01.09	4.8	13.28	4.9
Aberdeen	-	-	12.03	3.8	Liverpool	09.48	8.4	22.08	8.5
Avonmouth	05.31	11.8	17.58	12.1	Lowestoft	08.28	2.3	20.15	2.3
Belfast	09.24	3.2	22.00	3.1	Margate	10.51	4.2	22.56	4.3
Cardiff	05.17	10.9	17.44	11.2	Milford Haven	04.42	6.0	17.02	6.1
Devonport	04.05	4.9	16.31	5.0	Newquay	03.36	6.1	15.55	6.1
Dover	09.41	5.9	21.55	6.1	Oban	04.26	3.4	16.48	3.5
Dublin (N Wall)	10.17	3.9	22.37	3.7	Penzance	03.05	4.9	15.27	4.9
Falmouth	03.36	4.7	16.02	4.8	Portland	05.05	1.5	17.38	1.5
Greenock	10.59	3.0	23.45	2.9	Portsmouth	09.50	4.0	22.14	4.2
Harwich	10.27	3.5	22.42	3.5	Shoreham	09.49	5.4	22.11	5.7
Holyhead	09.01	5.0	21.22	5.0	Southampton	09.22	4.1	21.45	4.2
Hull (Albert D)	04.54	7.6	17.05	7.9	Swansea	04.41	8.4	17.03	8.6
Ilfracombe	04.27	8.0	16.49	8.2	Tees	02.06	4.6	14.20	4.8
King's Lynn	05.02	5.7	17.06	5.9	Walton-on-N	10.22	3.6	22.36	3.8

All times GMT. Heights in metres.

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Southampton 15C (59F); lowest day max: Lerwick, Shetland 5C (41F); highest rainfall: Lerwick, Shetland 0.43in; highest sunshine: Bognor Regis 11.0hr.

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